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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Free

"Lesbian and gay rights will continue to be eroded unless the silence that usually greets these actions is broken." Eleanor Cooper and Jim Levin

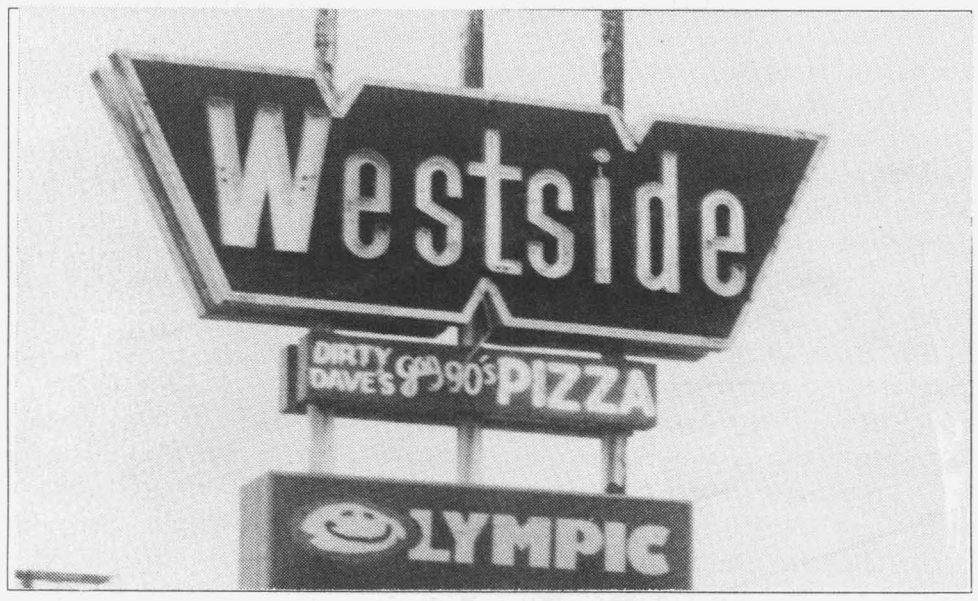
Success On The Westside?

Alan Brisley

What do drive-through fast food restaurants, drive-through banks and drive through laundry cleaners have in common? Reading the Westside Zoning Study recommendations one must conclude that they are "pedestrian friendly," encourage the use of mass transit and alternative forms of transportation and will help integrate the Westside business district with its adjoining residential neighborhood.

Hey! Does anybody remember Jack in the Box? If drive-throughs are so appealing, what was all that fuss about?

First the good news. Thanks to the diligent work and strong voices of Westside residents the Jack in the Box proposed for the corner of Harrison and Division finally bit the dust. Delayed by citizen action and then by deadly hamburgers its permit expired last month. The thousands of signatures on petitions, legal appeals and neighborhood demonstrations won an important battle.



But plans for a drive-through bank or a drive-through espresso bar are already being discussed for the same location. The problem of more drive-throughs, more cars, more pavement and increasingly ugly and dangerous conditions for pedestrians remains.

The Harrison Zoning Task Force was specifically created by the City Council over a year ago in response to neighborhood opposition to Jack in the Box and a petition for an emergency development "freeze" and a "rezone." The Westside Zoning Task Force was to "propose amendments to Olympia's Zoning Ordinance to make the existing General Commercial District along Harrison Ave. more 'pedestrian friendly,' to improve its appearance, and to address topics such as automobile dependent uses (e.g., drive-through restaurants), the mix of land uses and the scale of development." The task force was composed of Westside residents, business and property owners from the area and their representatives and planning commission members.

Thanks to the diligent work and strong voices of Westside residents the Jack in the Box proposed for the corner of Harrison and Division finally bit the dust.

(Continued page 3)

Needle Exchange Needs You!

Carol Poole

Thurston County's first and only needle exchange program for injection drug users began about a year ago as an unofficial effort of a few persistent volunteers. Today, the needle exchange has developed into a nonprofit organization with a new name, a growing demand for its services,—and a need for support from the community.

The Olympia AIDS Prevention Project (OAPP), as this group is called, runs a needle exchange program in Olympia modeled after Tacoma's successful Point Defiance AIDS Projects' needle exchange. OAPP staff give new needles in exchange, one for one, for used ones, thus providing users with the means to protect themselves against HIV, which spreads rapidly when needles are shared. OAPP staff also provide general education about AIDS prevention.

Needle exchange programs are relatively new in the fight against AIDS, and controversial. No one disputes the facts: sharing needles means sharing HIV, and new needles are safer than reused ones (even when rinsed with bleach, as the county Health Department recommends). HIV seropositivity rates among injection drug users in Tacoma have remained low, around 4%; without the needle exchange program, rates over 50% might be expected, based on the pattern of HIV infection among injection drug users and their sexual partners in cities without needle exchanges.

State and federal law prohibit the distribution of "drug paraphernalia," including syringes for private use. However, the state Supreme Court found in a 1992 decision that needle exchange programs to prevent the spread of HIV are legal.

Also, new needles cause less damage to veins and skin than blunt, used needles. OAPP staff point out that another advantage of a needle exchange program is that relationships can develop between outreach workers and clients over time.

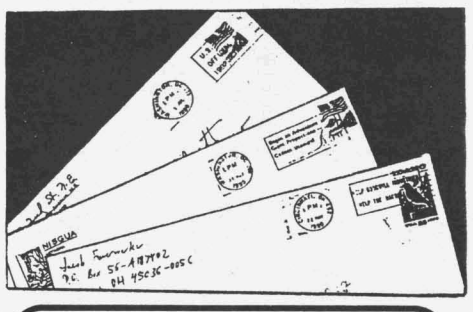
State and federal law prohibit the distribution of "drug paraphernalia," including syringes for private use. However, the state Supreme Court found in a 1992 decision that needle exchange programs to prevent the spread of HIV are legal.

OAPP staff emphasize respect for clients when they speak about their goals for the needle exchange program. "We're not here to fix people," says one staffer, a former injection drug user, who stresses that OAPP relies on peer education to reach out to a highly diverse clientele. Staff estimate that the needle exchange currently serves 20% of the county's injection drug users. Volunteers, especially people of color, are needed to help with outreach and peer education. Also, OAPP needs help covering the cost of supplies. Syringes cost $75/thousand, and about 1,500 are exchanged each month—the rate is on the increase. (Support OAPP has already received from the community includes office space provided by Bread & Roses and a Community Sustaining Fund grant of $600). For more information or to become involved, call Wayne Zebelman at 705-4753. Donations can be made to Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects at 114 Cherry Street NE, Olympia, WA 98501. ✪

For about a year, or since it began exchanging needles, OAPP has been advocating for the county Board of Health to officially support a clean syringe exchange program. Such a county Health Department-sponsored needle exchange would have resources to greatly increase the accessibility of local efforts such as OAPP. In June 13th's Olympian, the county Health Officer, Dr. Diane Yu, requested that Thurston County residents give her their opinions to see if public hearings on this issue, now tentatively scheduled for August, should be held. These hearings will have a significant influence on whether a needle exchange program is made part of the Board of Health's agenda. Letters of support for a Thurston County Health Department-sponsored needle exchange program should be sent to Dr. Diane Yu, Thurston County Health Department, 529 West 4th Ave, Olympia, 98502. Copies of letters should be sent to the Editor at the Olympian.

Marable: Vision Of Harold Washington Page 4
Race, Class, And Community Page 5
Bicycles & Autos And Commuters Page 5
The City's Response To The Homeless Page 6
Remembering Chavez & Farmworkers' Rights Page 8
Peace-Keeping, Corporate Style Page 11
Gay Community & Bigot Bashing Page 12
Boycott Diamond Walnut Growers Page 14

Letters



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Marxism Not Only Socialism

Dear WIP: The Socialist Labor Party which Milton Poulos supports (Letters, June 1993) does have as anti-authoritarian a program as is to be found on the Old Left. But that is, unfortunately, not saying much. With several of Poulos' pronouncements I must take exception.

According to Poulos, the SLP "strictly follows the teachings of Karl Marx. There is no other 'socialism.'" This places Poulos in the same paradoxical position as the Cretan who said that all Cretans are liars. If you strictly follow the teachings of Karl Marx, you must believe that there are other socialisms. Marx and Engels identify four other socialisms in Part III of the Communist Manifesto, and Engels devoted a book to comparing some other socialisms (those of Owen, Saint-Simon, Fourier, etc.) to their own version (Socialism: Utopian and Scientific). Poulos is quite mistaken to say that the Paris Commune was socialist, especially since for him socialism necessarily embraces "worker control of the work place." The Paris Commune was simply a political democracy consisting of some 70 representatives elected on a geographical, not a functional or industrial basis. The great majority of delegates were Neo-Jacobins who weren't and didn't claim to be socialists. Some were Proudhonist anarchists (I know, it sounds contradictory for an anarchist to hold political office, but Proudhon himself did so in 1848). There was only one Marxist. There was no worker control of the workplace, and the Commune even shrank from taking over the national bank. The Commune was a heroic episode in working-class revolution, but it was not socialist.

With (Matt) Love, Bob Black

In Heartfelt Appreciation

Dear WIPsters,

On the eve of your fourth anniversary, allow me to express my heartfelt appreciation for the many hours of effort the editorial collective has invested in the Thurston County community. Your dedication to the "*Works In Progress* experiment" has allowed me to stay in touch with many aspects of the progressive community that I'd otherwise not hear about.

I'm a better person because of your educational efforts, and I appreciate your work on the community's behalf.

Take care, Curt Pavola

Why Contact Your Representatives?

Think your phone calls don't matter? Here's an excerpt from a personally-addressed form letter Representative Tim Sheldon (Hoodsport) recently sent constituents who contacted him during the 1993 legislative session:

"My office received 553 calls in opposition to HB 1443, the gay rights bill with 60 supporting. I voted with the majority of my district on this issue."

If everyone in favor of 1443 had called, at the very least we would have eliminated Sheldon's excuse. And who knows, maybe we'd have gotten another vote. Even when it seems useless, make the gesture. Why let anyone think supporters of gay rights are in the minority?

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Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

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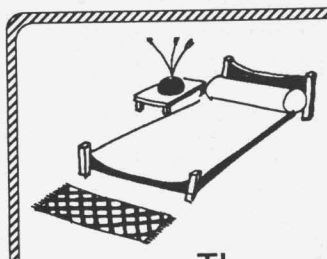

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Building a Movement

WIP News Service

Oregon gay-rights activists Donna Red Wing and Bob Ralphs recently spoke in Olympia. Here are some quotes from their talks.

Bob Ralphs organized the very successful Bigot Busters campaign to encourage Oregonians not to sign anti-gay petitions. The efforts of Ralphs and others kept the issue off the Portland ballot last spring, although it did appear on the statewide ballot in November. Ralphs spoke at the June Thurston County Hands Off Washington organizing meeting.

• [In Oregon] people who voted "no" [on anti-gay ballot Measure 9] knew someone queer. Every time you pass up the opportunity to be who you are, you pass up the opportunity to move a voter to your side.

• You may have to put some things aside to get what you want immediately—[when asking people not to sign petitions] you may have to call yourself "gay" instead of "queer". Don't lose touch with the big picture.

• Until there is civil rights protection on a national level, they [opponents of gay rights] will be at us at every single election...Their real goal [in gathering petition signatures] is that this is a way for them to get support, to get a list of names, and get support for their broad agenda.

Donna Red Wing is the executive director of the Lesbian Community Project in Portland, Oregon, a model for other organizing efforts across the country. The LCP documented hate incidents in Oregon during 1992 through their Homophobic Violence Documentation Project, an effort which continues. During the Measure 9 campaign, Red Wing herself received threats at work and at home. She came to Olympia in May and gave a presentation sponsored by Unity in the Community: Stop Hate Crimes Now, Citizens Against Hate Crime, Common Council for Civil Rights, Washington Freedom Coalition and Capitol City Pride.

• Our rights are non-negotiable.

• I don't think the Pacific Northwest belongs to racists, homophobes and bigots. I think it belongs to us.

• If we show people who we are in all of our diversity, and we show people who the Christian Right is, they'll find us a lot less scary.

On violence and our reaction to it...

• I believe that the OCA [Oregon Citizens Alliance] leadership . . . probably would not want to physically hurt gay or lesbian people. . . . Their campaign allows other people to do violence. . . . If they [OCA] were really about nonviolent work, they'd stop trying to create that "us" and "them" dynamic.

• The numbers and intensity of violence increased from the filing [of Measure 9] and decreased after the election. [Measure 9 was defeated.] When [anti-gay] Amendment 2 passed in Colorado [last November], violence skyrocketed and continues to increase.

• I realized that every time I altered my life to accommodate my fear, they won.

• We need to teach our children how to find their courage, and we do that by modeling it.

On avoiding division in the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community ...

• We need to get over our own egos. We're going to the same place ...get over ourselves and get into the struggle. Focus on the work that will move us forward.

• We must get past rhetoric of good queer, bad queer, palatable queer, fringe queer. I hope the table we create is big enough for anyone who wants to participate.

On organizing a long-term movement ...

• The tragedy is that after [raising] $2.5 million, and 18 months of hard work, we didn't move forward an inch [in Oregon]. We did not change hearts and minds. We built a campaign, and we didn't have the vision to build a movement. [Elsewhere Red Wing defined a movement as "lifelong work of information, help and support."]

• We need to build a movement that gets past gestures of inclusion and democracy. A movement that confronts racism, class, gender issues. A movement that is unabashedly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.

• I truly believe that queer people have always been at the forefront of every progressive movement. Not as queer people, but as choice people, people of peace, [etc.] It's time to call in our chips.

• I think it's wonderful that our allies stand with us, but I don't think they should stand in front of us screening us. That's not about liberation.

• We must put a queer face and a queer spin to this work.

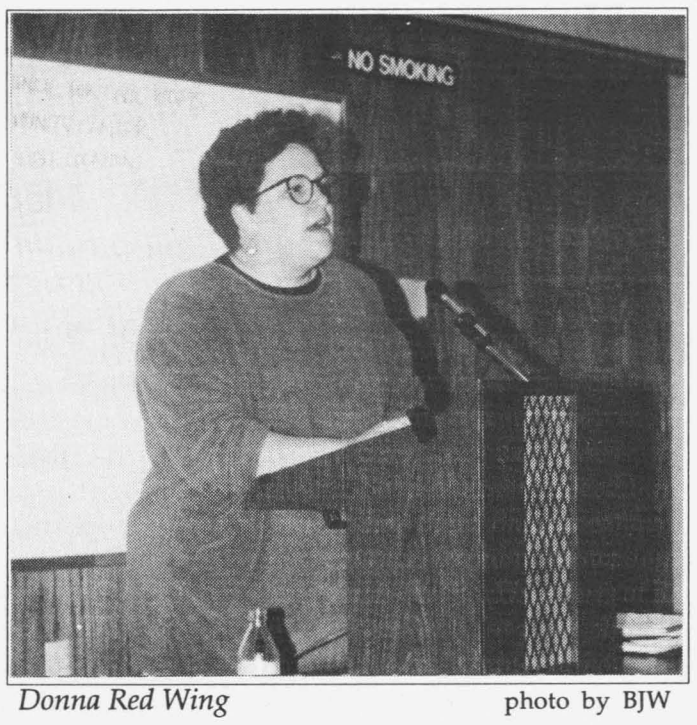
• We are worth a movement.

The gay-rights fight is a long-term effort ...

• We really need to take care of each other. No one else is going to do it.

• When you get the opportunity to do something that makes you feel good, do it.

• I want the world to know that we're not going to go away. Ever. I want this society to know that we're here. And that they'd better get used to it. ✪



Donna Red Wing photo by BJW

We need to build a movement ...that confronts racism, class, gender issues. A movement that is unabashedly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.

(Jack in Box, Continued)

The task force's preliminary recommendations were released at the beginning of June and the first public meeting was held on June 16th at the Garfield Elementary School Gym. About twenty people attended the meeting.

The overriding question of neighborhood residents was why did this document still allow drive-through establishments as a permitted use? After a year and a half of work, forty-seven pages of recommendations and a specific mandate to deal with the problems of drive-throughs, pedestrian unfriendliness and other consequences of strip-mall creep into the neighborhood, residents obviously expected some action.

Task Force responses were extremely varied. Dee Gustafson and Stan Biles (Planning Commission) both said that they would really prefer to strike drive-throughs as a permitted use. Kelley Janes (Friends of the Westside Center, Jack in the Box Task Force) said that it was not a "compromise" to allow drive-throughs, that she had always stood firmly against them. Steve Wamback (Westside Neighborhood Association, Planning Commission) said that in his "heart of hearts" he stood opposed to drive-throughs but that he felt satisfied that the general intent of the document would be enough to keep drive-throughs out of the area and that he would stand by the "compromise." Bob Divers (owner of old Copeland Lumber property) argued that the proposal's incentives and design requirements would solve the problem. He pointed out that some property owners have their life's savings invested in their property and it would be unfair to limit the return on their investment. Norm Falcone (business and property owner) echoed Divers' comments and instructed residents at the meeting to support the good work of the committee and not complain unless they had "serious concerns." It was also explained that banks and fast food restaurants would not build if they couldn't have drive-through windows.

Westsiders who've been around the block on the Jack in the Box fight have heard these kind of arguments and group dynamics before. They have also seen plenty of visionary documents with wonderful intent and no teeth or political will to make them a reality. It is clear that the Task Force is far from consensus on the drive-through question and that Westsiders better make their voices heard soon.

The zoning recommendations offer a host of new possibilities and eased restrictions and incentives to property owners for development of their parcels. These include reduced setbacks, reduced parking requirements, no minimum lot size and more. While these changes encourage development, they are tied to incentives and design standards that really could transform the "strip" into a vital neighborhood oriented and pedestrian friendly commercial area over time.

But without specifically *restricting* new projects which are contradictory to the Task Force's vision, pedestrian friendliness is certain to remain nothing more than a nice thought on paper. Money will talk and the Harrison strip will sprout more and more drive-throughs and parking lots. Neighborhood residents will get worn out fighting each bad proposal as it comes through the permit process. Meanwhile, the city will hold up their visionary documents as proof that they are doing something.

Please plan to attend the Planning Commission Hearing on Monday, July 19, 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers and make your voice heard for no more drive-throughs. Written comments can be sent to Charmaine Hays, Olympia Planning Commission, 2404 B Heritage Court SW, Olympia, WA 98502-6031. It's a good idea to send a copy on to City Council as well.

For a copy of the full recommendations contact John Sonnen, Regional Planner at 786-5445. To get involved in the effort to create a more liveable Westside with no more drive-throughs contact the Friends of the Westside Center/Jack in the Box Task Force at 786-8950. ✪

Along the Color Line

The Vision of Harold Washington: Ten Years Later

Dr. Manning Marable

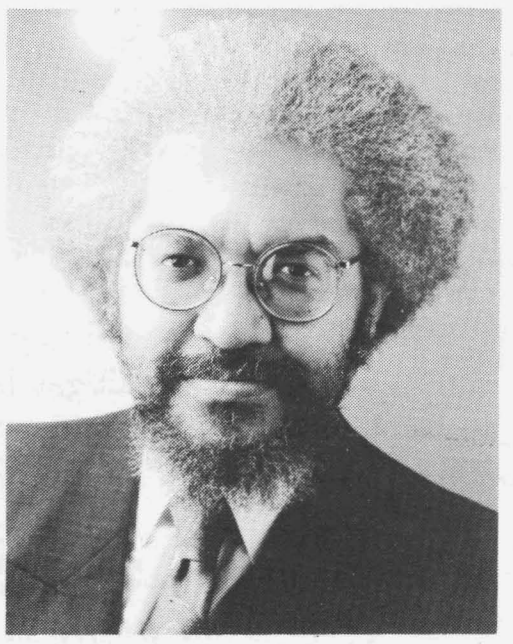
Historians of black America will one day mark three significant protests launched against the conservatism of the 1980s -- (a) the Rainbow coalition presidential campaigns of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, bringing millions of multiracial voters to the polls around a progressive agenda; (b) the anti-apartheid demonstrations of 1984-86, which fractured President Reagan's "constructive engagement policies" toward South Africa, and contributed to the freedom of Nelson Mandela; and (c) the mass electoral mobilization in the city of Chicago in 1983, which brought Congressman Harold Washington to power as mayor. All three of these political events must be understood as being linked, because all were part of a broad, collective struggle for black empowerment and democratic representation, at the municipal, national and international levels.

...the Washington electoral movements of 1983 and 1987 provide the keys for the construction of a progressive vision of democratic empowerment and multicultural coalition building in the contemporary urban environment of America

The critical elements behind the Washington mayoral triumph of 1983 have been documented by many political scientists and scholars. For a half century, Chicago's African-American community was dominated by the Democratic Party "Machine." Patronage was used to overcome class and neighborhood loyalties, and bind elected officials to the interests of the Democratic machine of Cook County. Under Richard Daley's control, from 1955 to 1976, white neighborhoods reaped a disproportionately large share of resources and jobs. Black and Hispanic communities suffered under higher rates of unemployment, and City Hall frequently shortchanged their basic needs, such as garbage and street sanitation. Hundreds of incidents of police brutality or harassment were ignored.

It was in this oppressive environment, in the 1970s and early 1980s, that groups such as Jesse Jackson's People United to Serve Humanity (PUSH), Chicago Black United Communities (CBUC), elements of the Black religious community, and the sixteen community-based organizations which had created the People Organized for Welfare and Employrnent Rights (POWER), coalesced behind a drive for fundamental democratic change. In 1982, over 160,000 new voters were registered, including about 127,000 blacks from the 17 predominately African-American wards. This mobilization found a very reluctant candidate, Congressman Harold Washington, as its champion for challenging the machine. Washington had run a largely symbolic independent campaign for mayor in 1977, receiving barely 10 percent of the vote against Michael Bilandic.

Washington loved his job in Congress, and didn't want to leave the capital. Yet he also realized that a political strategy of community-based empowerment, social reform and an anti-corruption platform could rally significant sectors of the white, Latino and African-American electorates. More specifically, in the three-way race in the Democratic primaries, which matched Washington against incumbent mayor Jane Byrne and State's Richard M. Daley, the numbers actually favored a black victory. As black leader Renault Robinson put it, victory was possible with an "eighty-eighty strategy:" If 80 percent of the African-American population registered and 80 percent voted, Washington could win.



On primary day, February 22, 1983, Washington won by 33,000 votes. Eighty five percent of the African-American vote was cast for Washington, with over 90 percent of blacks voting in many precincts. Recognizing their error of political judgment, most of the city's racists, power brokers and machine hacks clustered around Republican mayoral candidate Bernard Epton, as their "great white hope." Epton shamelessly exploited the city's volatile racial tensions, running on the slogan, "Epton, Before It's Too Late." But in the general election, these vulgar race-baiting tactics failed. Washington defeated Epton by 46,000 votes out of almost 1.3 million ballots cast. Citywide, Washington received nearly unanimous support from African-Americans. Yet the campaign had clearly forged the basis of a progressive, rainbow coalition. Washington also won crucial votes among white workers, Northside liberal whites, Latinos, gays and lesbians. Of Washington's total votes cast in the general election, 53.5 percent came from blacks, 10 percent from Hispanics, and 36.4 percent from whites.

Since Washington's tragic death on November 25, 1987 shy after his re-election as mayor, the process of political reform in Chicago has been sharply reversed Richard M. Daley occupies the mayor's office as firmly and as determinedly as his father. Black progressives and moderates became divided, as key Latino and white liberal leaders defected to Daley and the Democratic Party organization. The optimism, energy and political courage which made Washington a "folk hero" to thousands of black people has largely disappeared. Yet in retrospect, the Washington electoral movements of 1983 and 1987 provide the keys for the construction of a progressive vision of democratic empowerment and multicultural coalition building in the contemporary urban environment of America.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 250 publications and is broadcast by more than 60 radio stations worldwide. ✪

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Race, Class, and Community

Jerome Johnson

I went for a rather long bicycle ride the other day, from the Westside out to Lacey and back. I love to bicycle for lots of reasons, but first and foremost, it gives me time to think. Whether it's idle woolgathering or gritty problem-solving, nothing beats a ride, and it's a privilege I'm grateful for.

It is Juneteenth, an African-American holiday, and my thoughts drifted in that direction. Every June 19th we celebrate Juneteenth with good food and conversation. We celebrate June 19 because although the Emancipation Proclamation took effect January 19, 1863, it wasn't until June 1 that the black folk in Texass were permitted to know about it. Such was the nature of racism.

It's an interesting experience -- to say the least -- to be a black person in the U.S., not only because of white people. As I thought about the progress of civil rights and the work yet to be done, I remembered some of the black people I'd encountered a few weeks previously. I was riding around the county posting flyers for the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition rummage sale, and I didn't want state workers to miss out on it; so I went to several state offices and perused their bulletin boards. From time to time I'd run into a black person, and I tipped my cap in greeting. Most of the time I was answered with a strained half-smile or blank look. Only a few times people replied with a smile or an exchange of pleasantries.

This has happened more and more recently, but I' never really thought about it until now. At first I thought something was wrong with me -- I ducked into the nearest restroom to check myself out. I didn't see anything wrong, or threatening: a youngish black guy in gray T-shirt, white shorts and shoes, blue daypack and hat. I knew I was publicly representing the Rainbow Coalition, and made it a point to dress nicely casual in something comfortable enough to ride in. Shaking my head, I mounted up and rode down Capitol Way, thinking.

When I was a boy growing up in Olympia during the late '60s and early '70s, there were precious few black folks around. From the time I was in kindergarten until my first year of high school, I was the only black in school -- and that first year at Capital, there was only *one* other black fellow, making for a total of two. But by then there were more blacks around -- once in a while you'd see someone on the street or in the store. We'd nod or smile at each other, strike up a conversation, introduce ourselves. After a short time we'd part, still strangers, doubting if we'd meet again; most of the time, we didn't. We knew this at the beginning of the encounter. But it gave us a feeling of community, of belonging, of family. It was a way of Saying, "Hello, how are you, it's nice to know we're not The Only One any more, congratulations on your survival, good luck in this town and elsewhere." It was a good, warm feeling that made rough days better and good days excellent.

That doesn't happen much any more, and it's too bad. I guess a lot of black folks think they've "made it" now: good job, benefits, more blacks and other people of color around. They are successful, and with that, I think, comes an air of class snobbery that precludes any sense of community. This saddens me, because I know that we really *haven't* made it yet, would not have come this far without that sense of community, and still need that sense of community to continue advancing. Just because a few of us are better off doesn't mean that it's time to quit -- and even after we achieve full civil rights, we'll still need our community.

I know that we really* haven't *made it yet, would not have come this far without that sense of community, and still need that sense of community to continue advancing.

I thought of Shelby Steele, and the black woman he always meets at Safeway but never speaks with. I thought of Whoopi Goldberg and Bill Cosby and Arsenio Hall, who talk about how bad it is for blacks in Hollywood but don't walk to the conference table, pool their money and open their own studio to make their own films, with black crews and actors. I thought of all the black folks here in town my mother never sees on her massage table and Barb O'Neill never sees in her restaurant.

And I thought of the two brothers passing through from Seattle on their way to Colorado Springs, who asked me how to find Capital Mall. As I told them we had a short, lively, friendly conversation -- just like old times. After about ten minutes we parted, feeling pretty good about ourselves.

On my bike, I just sighed, smiling a bit ruefully to myself, and rode on to Lacey, where most of the black folks live.

Jerome Johnson is a Co-Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. ✪

Bicycles and the Automobile

Rhys Roth

The Energy Outreach Center just successfully put on another May bicycle commuter contest in Thurston County. There were about 350 participants who bicycled 40,736 miles in the month of May. By not driving the participants saved:

Gasoline = 2,037 gallons

Nitrogen oxide pollution = 246 pounds

Hydrocarbon pollution = 317 pounds

Carbon monoxide pollution = 1,945 pounds

Carbon dioxide (greenhouse gas) = 20.4 tons

Money!! = $3,747 (in gas, wear and tear only)

Automobile Welfare?

Many other costs of driving are paid by the general public rather than directly by drivers. These subsidies are documented in a new book called "The Going Rate: What it Really Costs to Drive" by the World Resources Institute:

About 40% of the $33.3 billion annually that government spends nationally to build, improve, and repair roads are not covered by user fees such as gas taxes.

Another $68 billion not paid for by user fees are spent each year on such auto-related services as highway patrol, traffic management, parking enforcement, and traffic accident response.

Air pollution caused by motor vehicles does significant economic damage to human health, food crops, and the environment. The lowest estimates are $10 billion per year.

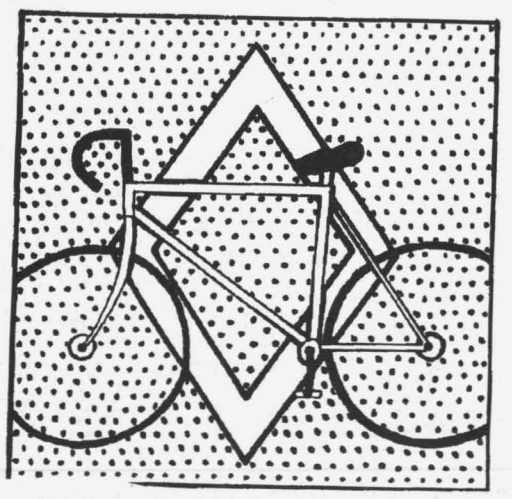
Because half of our imported oil goes to transportation, part of the cost of maintaining the US military presence in the Middle East ($50 billion per year) should be considered another publicly-subsidized cost of driving.

Driving is Expensive

Transportation and land-use plans can lock us into high-cost travel by keeping the alternatives to driving alone inconvenient. The average cost of owning and operating a vehicle, including car payments, insurance, registration, maintenance, and other expenses, is roughly $5,800 per year, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA). So, if you work 40 hours per week and take home $10 per hour, the first 11 hours you work each week goes into the car.

Costs to commute: Bicycling = 4 cents/mile (source: Bicycling Federation of America)

Auto = 34.8 cents/mile at 20,000 miles per year; 47.4 cents/mile at 10,000 miles per year (source: AAA)



Bicycling in Thurston County: How to make things better

As you have may be noticing, Thurston County is not the most bicycle-friendly community in the world. And if the Thurston Regional Transportation Plan comes to pass, it won't get much better in the future. That Plan, which will be used to guide transportation decision-making, projects a minuscule 2% bicycle commute rate in the year 2010. By contrast, towns like Boulder (9.3%), Davis (25%), Gainesville (10%), and Madison (11%) are already achieving far higher rates of bicycle commuting.

We fear a self-fulfilling prophecy: low projections of future bicycling rates justify little investment in bicycling improvements which discourages bicycling.

But the Regional Transportation Plan is not the final word. Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater are each in the process of revising their Comprehensive Plans. The Transportation elements of these plans are where the rubber meets the road in terms of creating our bicycling future.

1) We need to be designing streets that people will want to bicycle; and 2) We need to invest in bicycling infrastructure first before new roads.

If you want a future that includes the healthy, quiet, non-polluting option of bicycling, you really need to let them know! Two key points need to be made:

1) We need to be designing streets that people will want to bicycle; and

2) We need to invest in bicycling infrastructure first before new roads.

If the response is good, many costly new roads may not be needed.

Here's what you can do depending on which town you live in:

Olympia Planning Dept., 2404-B Heritage Court SW, Olympia 98502-6031

Tumwater is drafting the transportation element to its Comprehensive Plan with the help of a citizens advisory committee which meets monthly. To express your views and/or find out when advisory meetings are held, contact:

(Continued on page 15)

Remembering Cesar Chavez, 1927-1993

What Happened Here is a Miracle

Paul Ortiz

On July 29, 1970, Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and members of the United Farm Worker Organizing Committee (UFWOC) emerged from a meeting with major California table grape growers at the UFWOC headquarters at Forty Acres, to make a historic announcement.

They were met by the cries of thousands of farm workers and supporters chanting "'Nosotros venceremos...we shall overcome, we shall overcome. Viva la Huelga! Viva la Virgien de Guadalupe! Viva Cesar Chavez!" The assembled farm workers knew that their former masters, the Delano grape growers, had just admitted defeat and signed union contracts.

In the midst of this distinguished audience of campesinos, Cesar Chavez thrust his hand towards the sky and said, simply, "victory." Dolores Huerta, lead negotiator for the union, reminded the gathering that "What's happened here is a miracle, but it didn't come about by magic."

These farm workers and thousands of their companeros and companeras, has waged five years of strikes and boycotts. Chavez declared that they had "lost all their worldly possessions...but in struggling for justice, they found themselves." (One day [September, 1965] they [the growers] cut off the water, then the electricity and then, in another two days, the gas, and we [striking Phillipino farm workers] had to cook outside...Then they padlocked the doors and we had to sleep under the trees.")

From desperation to victory-it was one of the greatest moments in the history of working class insurgency; a moment when the world was "turned upside down." One grower summed it up for the ruling class: "It's damned hard to eat this stuff...People who aren't even citizens are telling you what to do. That's what it amounts to...You don't have any control anymore."

Jessie Lopez, a union organizer for the UFWOC, relentlessly spread the message of rebellion in the fields where she told farm workers, "You know, we're not back in the 20's. We can stand up! We can talk back! It's not like when I was a little kid and my grandmother used to say, 'You have to especailly respect the Anglos, "Yessir," "Yes, Ma'am!"' That's over. This country is very rich, and we want a share of the money those growers make of our sweat and our work by exploiting us and our children."

Campesinos brought the "ragged edge of revolution" to the bargaining table with agribusiness. One horrified lawyer stated that "The union's [negotiating] committee consists of up to sixty members, mostly right off the fields and the negotiations with management often are turned into noisy union meetings conducted mostly in Spanish. They argue with each other, and when we suggest cutting down the size of the committee to get some work done, we are denounced as members of the exploiting class. The union representatives demand 'continuous' bargaining sessions," and when we ask about meals, sleep, or at least rest, they say apparently we don't understand the English language-that 'continous' means without stopping, and that is what they mean, too."

Farm workers and their allies brought democracy to the fields and challenged the social fabric of the nation. "The time of revolution," remarked Tomas Borge, "is the time when the rich are left alone. It is the time of sad alarms, for those who have accumulated house after house start grinding their teeth."

In this case, farm workers, "mostly right off of the fields," sounded the alarms with the cry "los rancheros son pocos, nosotros somos muchos-the ranchers are few, we are many."

To understand the significance of the farm worker's victory over the grape growers in 1970, one must realize that as farm workers began building a movement for social justice, the loaded guns of capitalism were brought to bear upon them full bore. The growers spent more than 2 million dollars on an advertising and public relations campaign to defeat the farm workers directed by Whitaker & Baker, the firm that had previously waged the major campaigns against Medicare and reapportionment of rural dominated legislatures.'"

When Richard Nixon took office, he ordered the Defense Department to increase its grape purchases by a factor of five. In the Vietnam war theater alone, grape shipments increased from 500,000 to 2.5 million pounds in 1968-69.

In California, governor Ronald Reagan funneled massive tax dollars to supply "growers with convict [labor] and welfare recipients, until blocked by a state supreme court ruling."

The right-wing mobilized to crush the farm worker movment. The Ku Klux Klan burned crosses at struck ranches. The John Birch Society and the National Right to Work Committee counter-picketed and formed so-called consumer rights groups to fight the grape boycott, promoted "consumer choice" and "deliver[ed] dire warnings that the UFWOC sought 'control of America's food supply." School districts provided high-school students as scab labor to work the fields.

In the fields, farm worker organizers and supporters, living on five dollars a week, exhorted their sisters and brothers to come out and join the strike. They faced down racist police and armed thugs on the picket lines. Many, like Jessie Lopez, endured terrible violence. Lopez recalled being sprayed down with firehoses full of pesticides.

At first, the situation was so tenuous that a single strike victory brought salutations from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Another notable success: In 1966, led by African-American farm worker Mack Lyons, vineyard workers won a representation election and a contract at Di Giorgio ranches, the site of a tragic, failed three-year strike in the 1940's.

...the strikes, the boycotts, the emphasis on women's leadership, the resurrection and nurturing of culture fused and became a mighty force for social justice.

But Cesar Chavez and the leadership of the UFWOC were shrewd enough to realize that strikes were not enough. The grape growers were too powerful, and the state looked the other way when agribusiness subverted (or used) the law to crush the union.To augment the strikes, the UFWOC employed the grape boycott. Teams of farm workers, students (many of whom were veterans of the Civil Rights Movement) and supporters organized boycott committees across the U.S. These committees set up pickets at countless grocery stores, sought endorsements, and exhorted transportation workers to honor the grape boycott.

Some workers immediately responded. Longshore union workers in Oakland refused to load a shipment of boycotted grapes in December, 1965 after being alerted by a boycott committee. The result: "Over 1,000 ten-ton cases of grapes sat rotting on the Oakland wharves." Radical teamsters "lost" grape shipments, or "whole shipments were mysteriously damaged by accident." Dock workers in Europe notified trans-Atlantic ships that they would refuse to handle shipments of California table grapes-some vessels bearing the boycotted cargo were forced to turn around in the middle of the ocean and sail back to the U.S.

Such breakthroughs were electrifying, but the real success of the boycott was in squeezing or closing off markets to the profit-minded grape growers. Here, the patient, methodical work of the boycott committees paid off. "In New York, where growers normally sold about 20 percent of their crop, sales plummeted 90 percent during the summer of 1968 and wholesale prices dropped by as much as one-third...Entire supermarket chains quit stocking grapes; student supporters had grapes stricken from the menus of cafeterias and university dining halls..."

Remembering Cesar Chavez

Cesar Chavez deployed culture in the service of struggle, social justice (as opposed to "pure and simple" unionism), and urged the participation of women in the farm worker movement.

One of the most revealing stories about Cesar, was told by Jessie Lopez, who recalled that in the years before the grape strike, women couldn't do anything. Your husband would say, "Go here," you'd do it. You didn't dare go out without your husband saying you could..." Lopez recalled

> One night in 1962 there was a knock at the door and there were three men. One of them was Cesar Chavez. And the nextthing I knew, they were sitting around our table talking about a union. I made coffee. Arnold [her husband] had already told me about a union for the farm workers. he was attending their meetings in Fresno, but I didn't. I'd either stay home or stay outside in the car. But then Cesar said, "The women have to be involved. They're theones working out in the fields with their husbands. If you can take the women out to the fields, you can certainly take them to meetings." So I sat up straight and said to myself, "That's what I want."

Culture played a critical part in the struggle. The epic marches-Delano to Sacramento and Indio to Calexico among others, won the hearts and minds of thousands of farm workers because they expressed sacred and treasured themes. In fact, Chicanos and Mexicanos saw these "marches" as pilgrimages, combining the deeply held religious concept of "penitence" and the secular standard of "una revolucion" represented by slogans and portraits of the beloved hero of the Mexican Revolution-Emiliano Zapata.

On that hot morning in July, everything- the strikes, the boycotts, the emphasis on women's leadership, the resurrection and nurturing of culture fused and became a mighty force for social justice. In recognition of this miracle "that didn't come about by magic," Dolores Huerta demanded that the growers humble themselves by coming to the headquarters of their former subjects to sign the peace treaties.

June, 1993: The Struggle Will Never Die

Many hoped that a new era in farm labor had dawned. Certainly,

(Continued next page)

Land Value vs. Regressive Taxation

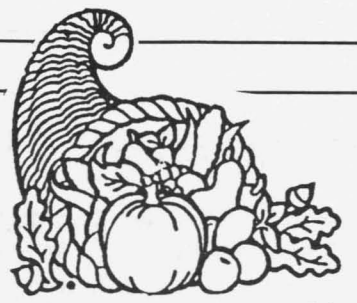
Marvin Saillard

Our government is addicted to regressive taxes which erode the tax base and depress the economy. Regressive taxes confiscate the privately-created values of labor and capital, discourage production by adding to its cost, create scarcity of products, and raise the cost of living by increasing the price of products.

A heavy tax on the rental-value (use-value) of land cannot be passed on in higher land prices because the tax cannot reduce the supply of land. The law of supply and demand says that high prices are caused by scarcity. As a matter of fact the price of land would come down because land owners, who were making poor use of their land, could not afford to pay taxes based on the market value of the land.

By competing to sell their land the landowners would bring down the price of land. The whole community would benefit because land-users would be encouraged to create more and better jobs by the need to make the highest and best use of their land. Lower land-prices would make it less expensive for people to make good use of their land. Replacing regressive taxes with the incentive taxes on the rental-value of land would further benefit the community.

Land-prices would be stable because there would no longer be any land speculation or land-price inflation to affect the price. Only population growth, public services and community improvements would add varying amounts to the value of locations within the community. The community government would collect the rental-value of land as public revenue from the land-user who was benefiting from the advantages of each location.



Under the current system of regressive taxation, landowners are allowed to keep most of the publicly-created rental-value of land as unearned income. This rewards the landowners at the expense of those who must rely on their labor and meager capital to earn a living. Due to the artificial scarcity of undertaxed land there cannot be enough jobs created to bring about full employment or fair wages. Only when there are enough jobs, that jobs must compete for workers, will we be able to have fair wages for everyone.

Regressive taxes always penalize anyone who tries to do productive things to benefit the community. Land-value taxation always encourages everyone to do things which improve the community and make it a better place to live.

Regressive taxes always penalize anyone who tries to do productive things to benefit the community. Land-value taxation always encourages everyone to do things which improve the community and make it a better place to live.

All we need to do is overcome the addiction to regressive taxes, adopt a two-rate property tax, begin to untax people and products, and begin to collect more and more of the rental-value of land as public revenue. ✪

Economic Imperatives for Prosperity and Justice

Green Economics Roundtable

Olympians are privileged to be able to hear a talented educator, George Collins, who is touring the west coast in July. The Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation is bringing Collins to their 35th Annual Conference, July 2 to 5, at Seabeck. He will be at our Green Economics Roundtable on the 7th. On the 8th, he will speak at a reception in Seattle sponsored by the Washington State Georgist Association at the home of Eugene Levin to members of the Seattle City Council, King County Council, planning staff and friends.

As head of the Henry George School in New York City since 1961, George Collins has become well-known in economic education circles. Several years ago, with funding from the New York state school system, Collins produced several video tapes on land economics for use in high schools. One series teaches basic economics in 10-minute segments. The other documents the history of land use in America in two 30-minute episodes. It explains why land values rise over time with increasing population, and the role of speculation in land. Both series are available free from the New York City Henry George School, or may be borrowed from Meta Heller or Steve Porter.

As head of the Henry George School in New York City since 1961, George Collins has become well-known in economic education circles.

As an experienced Shakespearean actor, Collins makes the usually dismal and disheartening subject of economics come alive. He was born in Jamaica, attending college there. Since independence in the '60s, Jamaica has had a public revenue system based on land-value taxation, as had Trinidad-Tobago. Other countries in the world with variations of this tax structure are New Zealand, Australia, The Netherlands, Denmark, South Africa, Zaire, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the U.S. (Pennsylvania).

After speaking in the Puget Sound area, George Collins will then participate in the annual conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations in L.A. from July 21 through 25. ✪

Speaker: George Collins, Executive Director of the Henry George School in New York City
Topic: "Economic Imperatives for Prosperity and Justice"
When: Wednesday July 7th Noon to 2 p.m. Brown Bag
Where: Washington State Grange—3rd floor, Conference Room 924 Capitol Way South (Park free across street, 10th & Capitol)
For further information call, Meta Heller 352-9507 or Steve Porter (h) 357-3492 or (w) 754-8546.

(Cesar, continued)

there were astounding gains. The UFWOC demanded and won an end to DDT usage, toilets were installed in the fields, wages rose significantly, children were freed from toil to go to school.

Unfortunately, the farm workers immediately faced formidable enemies: unreformed Teamsters, called in by the growers to sign sweetheart contracts, an increase in immigration (manipulated by growers and labor contractors) that depressed wages, and Republican governors that gutted the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

In 1986, Cesar Chavez marched with Washington state farm workers to usher in a new union of farm workers: the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS). The union was founded to organize farm workers for the betterment of their conditions and to promote farm worker leadership.

The struggle of farm workers in Washington state has reached a defining moment. The seven-year fight of Chateau Ste. Michelle vineyard workers for the right to hold a union election and collective bargaining will determine the destiny of agricultural laborers and their families in Washington state. For this reason, the UFWWS has made the boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle its main project.

Recently, the struggle, augmented by several new boycott committees, scored a major breakthrough. Last month, a representative from the Swedish Food Worker's Union visited the Chateau Ste. Michelle/Columbia Crest vineyard in Patterson, Washington to investigate the boycott. After talking with both sides, he made a recommendation to his union: a full endorsement of the boycott of all U.S. Tobacco wines. Beginning Monday, June 21st, Swedish dock workers are refusing to unload all shipments of the boycotted wines. Furthermore, according to a fax sent by the Swedish union, 17,000 bottles of U.S. Tobacco wines that are sitting in warehouses in Swedish docks will go undelivered and unsold-Sweden is now a Chateau Ste. Michelle free country.

Cesar Chavez believed that the only real power farm workers (or any of us) have, is to organize and build solidarity among each other at work and in our communities To honor his memory we must do two things: boycott California table grapes (the United Farm Workers launched the 3rd grape boycott in 1988 with a 36-day fast by Chavez), and get involved with the UFWWS in your own community. Call the United Farm Workers at (509) 854-2161 or the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee at (206) 352-2153 for a chance to join the battle for human rights and dignity. Viva La Causa, Viva Cesar! ✪

Current Exciting Developments in Russia

Before the revolution, the world-reknowned writer Leo Tolstoy tried to persuade the Czar to promote the efficient use of land and natural resources through the system of taxation proposed by American economist Henry George, known today as land-value taxation. Thus contemporary Soviet intellectual leaders feel a bond to this idea and want to know more now that they are changing from a totally planned economy to a market economy. George Collins has been one of many Georgist leaders helping them worldwide.

In May, 80 Russian cities signed a resolution supporting the public revenue system last advocated there by Leo Tolstoy. Some cities, such as St. Petersburg, are requesting republic status so that they may introduce their own tax system based on land values. According to British economist and world financial news journalist Fred Harrison, the result of the April 25 referendum was useful. He is in Moscow now with experts in appraisal, leases, public finance, and government administration from the U.S., U.K., South Africa, Canada, and Australia helping a coordinating committee of Minister men and Deputies draft a Georgist tax system which can be promoted with the Supreme Soviet.

The City's Response to Homelessness

Mark Foutch

In your March issue you ran an article by Greg Hohnholt, "What Next For Olympia's Homeless?" I (and I'm sure the rest of the Olympia City Council) appreciated the call for a regional solution to this pressing social issue.

If there is a solution, it will be found in a two-part process: First, determine the nature of the problem(s), and then involve the community as a whole in deciding what approach we should take to improve the way we are addressing them.

The article discussed "The City's Response" to the immediate issue of homeless single men, that is, the $40,000 for the First Baptist Church and Salvation Army shelters as "bridge funding" (pun intended) while the community addressed the issue more systematically. I thought you might be interested in what the City is doing already for housing and social services, even though those have not been traditional small-City responsibilities. I'm attaching a fact sheet prepared for me by the assistant city manager last month outlining these expenditures.

Also attached is a long letter I sent to all those who wrote to the City Council recently on this issue. Copies went to the Lacey and Tumwater City Councils and to the County Commissioners. It seems to have helped focus attention on the need for a regional approach. Since the letter was written, three things have occurred:

-The Olympia Council, citing a wish to avoid duplication and work toward regional solutions, declined to form a separate City housing authority as requested in a citizens' petition. We did, however, direct the Mayor to...

-Write a letter to the County Commissioners formally requesting them to take a leadership role in this issue. They...

-Have responded promptly, agreeing to do so, and noting that Commissioner Nichols was in touch with the Mayor regarding the homeless problem.

As for the two-part process, I'm told that the Human Services Review Committee (HCRC, an inter-jurisdictional group) is awaiting results of a study by someone from St Martin's College. I've heard, though, that the scope and methodology of this study, which was already underway, might not meet our needs. We must determine who's out there and how to meet their basic needs in a way that is not counterproductive for them or the community.

Then we still have to find an approach and funding that the Thurston County community can and will support. Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRAC) staff has a great deal of expertise in laying out options and determining community preferences. Perhaps local jurisdictions could fund some staff time with TRPC once the needs are categorized better.

Margaret McPhee, who has experience in social services issues, has replaced me on the Olympia Council's General Government Committee and is now our representative to HSRC. She will be working with Commissioner Nichols and other local officials to address this problem. I hope WIP and Rainbow Coalition members will help local government and the community come to agreement on needs and methods. Rainy November is only a few months away.

To Homeless Shelter Correspondents:

We have received lots of postcards and letters recently expressing support for Associated Ministries' shelter proposal. Some assert that the City "isn't doing enough" to solve the problem of homelessness. While I have supported every homelessness-relief proposal that has walked through the door, and may well support this one when it reaches final form, I would like to outline some legitimate community concerns that all of us should be considering as this proposal takes shape. As you read this, please understand that these are my personal impressions; other Councilmembers may see things differently.

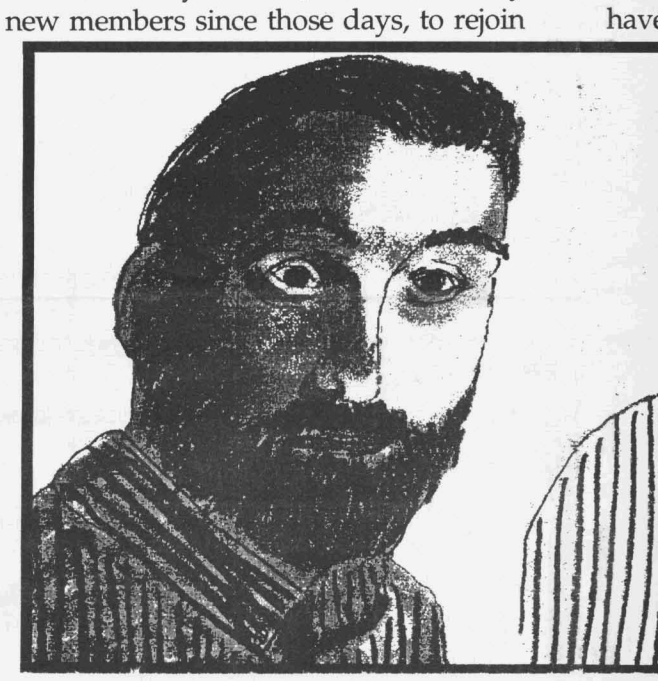
Government does have a responsibility in this area, and all local governments, the cities and the County, share equal legal responsibility to provide housing to those in their jurisdiction who cannot afford it.

Just a few years ago, the local community contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Salvation Army's shelter expansion project. Most believed, I think, that this would take care of the needs of "street people" for years to come. Now it turns out that: (a) some of the homeless feel their needs are not being met by Salvation Army's policy thrust and house rules; (b) Salvation Army's rules mean some homeless people (usually alcoholic men) cannot use the shelter; and (c) the Salvation Army has announced that it will no longer be serving homeless single men except for those able and willing to commit to a transitional program, working and saving for a place of their own. The community certainly has a right to feel confused about this situation. Should it also feel let down?

Some years ago the Thurston County Commissioners created the Thurston County Housing Authority and appointed a volunteer Board to run it. This is not a County agency, but a private nonprofit organization that can issue bonds, tap Federal and State funds, invest in housing, and generally address these kinds of problems if it so chooses. The problem is that, as usual, this social service agency is grossly underfunded and has had to perform "triage" on its client base in order to keep its head above water. Recently revitalized and under strong management, it has done fine work in preventing families from becoming homeless and getting some homeless families into decent housing. But it has felt unable to address the problem of homeless "street people", particularly single men, because of inadequate funds and because the community as a whole has not made up its mind as to what policy is to be pursued with regard to this subgroup.

Government does have a responsibility in this area, and all local governments, the cities and the County, share equal legal responsibility to provide housing to those in their jurisdiction who cannot afford it. The County's contribution, so far as I can tell, has been to set up the Housing Authority and provide something like $60,000 annually for its operation and $23,155 for a variety of services to housing for the mentally ill, etc., but charges the Housing Authority $14,000 for rent and other services to recover these costs.

Lacey, Olympia, and the County serve on the Human Services Review Committee which helps set policy on local government contributions to social service groups and allocates those funds. Again as usual, the funds are never enough to cover the needs (for 1993, Olympia contributed $14,410 to HSRC; the County, $6,352; Lacey, $4238). Inevitably, the groups not funded show up at the individual jurisdictions asking for supplemental funding, with Olympia usually being the only one to respond. (Tumwater withdrew from HSRC many years ago. HSRC recently asked the Tumwater City Council, which has many new members since those days, to rejoin



the group. They may well do so. Meanwhile, Tumwater has been providing some funding to social services groups on its own.)

Olympia has consistently supported programs that address the homelessness issue both directly and indirectly, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on social programs. One such expenditure is our $273,000 annual mandatory contracted support of the County Health Department, where all jurisdictions' funds are used for public health programs. Some of these funds go to nonprofit groups helping the mentally ill function well enough to stay in their homes and not become homeless, or to help mentally ill homeless people find shelter and other services.

More directly, we have budgeted $150,000 per year to the City's own revolving trust fund for affordable housing, and we are the only local jurisdiction with a Community Development office that taps Federal HUD funds for rehabilitation of low and moderate income rental and owner-occupied housing. The program's administrative costs, more than $60,000 per year, comes from the City budget. This program has upgraded literally hundreds of dwellings in this community, raising occupants from disgusting, unsafe, and unhealthy living conditions and committing rental owners to maintaining the properties as low-

1993 - City of Olympia Contributions to Social & Human Services

Social Services - HSRC	**Subtotal**	**$170.000**
Handicap Recreation Program	$11,000	
Safe Sober Task Force (General Fund Support)	420	
Downtown Low-Income Housing	150,000	
Child Care Action Council	19,630	
Assistance to CYS for Street Kids Survival Program	6,000	
Community Outreach Worker	37,500	
Parks Dept. Support to Youth at Risk Programs	1,500	
Puget Sound Legal Services	14,000	
Youth (At Risk Recreation) 1/2X Position	25,000	
South Sound Advocates	8,000	
Senior Services for South Sound RSVP (Rent Subsidy) (Based on Current 1992 Rental Rates)	32,868	
Dispute Resolution Center	3,500	
General Fund Contribution to Community Development Program	75,330	
TOGETHER! Anti-Violence Programs	13,500	
Alcoholism Programs - Thurston County	11,830	
Subtotal		$410,078
TOTAL		$580.078

Note: These contributions do not include in-kind support to social/human service programs in the community. Nor do they include Olympia's payment for health services provided largely to low income County residents.

Thurston County Health Services	$273,000
1992 One Time Contributions Include:	
Bread & Roses	40,000
Habitat for Humanity (Reduced Lot Costs)	28,000

income housing for many years rather than just letting them rot and speculating on the underlying value of the land for redevelopment.

Some other local jurisdictions complain that because of Olympia's access to federal block grants as the core of an urban area, we take money rightfully theirs, and so they shouldn't be expected to help address these issues. But Olympia's HUD funding is based only on Olympia's population, and the other communities are eligible for state block grants in the neighborhood of $500,000 annually that could be put toward housing solutions. They have usually chosen not to apply for these funds, and when they have applied it has often been for non-housing projects.

Olympia has provided monetary and moral support to Bread and Roses in their efforts to feed and shelter the poor and homeless. Our original $25,000 investment in equipment for the first Complimentary Kitchen has, for all practical purposes, gone down the drain because of conflicts between the needs of the soup kitchen and those of the other nonprofit group that held the building lease, which caused the kitchen to close. Swallowing that disappointment, we contributed $40,000 more to support construction of Bread and Roses' new drop-in center. Also, while we could not legally waive the general facilities charges for water and sewer for the center, which would have been applied "up-front" to a similar

commercial facility, these have been "postponed indefinitely". I don't know how or when we'll get out of that legal bind. By law, public utilities must be self-supporting, and eventually the building owners or tenants will have to pay. Meanwhile, this represents thousands of dollars of potential revenue lost to the City, which could have been applied to other worthy programs. We understand that charging Bread and Roses to support other programs would have been "robbing Peter to pay Paul", and we were glad to do what we could to support the center. But this is, in effect, one more City expenditure, and a legal and political risk, taken on behalf of the homeless.

Most recently we pulled $40,000 from our annual contribution to the City's affordable housing trust fund to provide emergency funding to the First Baptist Church and the Salvation Army for their response to our need to remove the unhealthy and sometimes dangerous encampment of homeless people under the Fourth Avenue bridge. We also appropriated another $5,000 from the general fund as "seed money" to challenge the other HSRC members to participate in a study of homelessness in our community so that we could try to figure out the most logical course of action while the aforementioned shelter providers "bought time" for us.

I could go on, but I think you get the idea. No other local jurisdiction even begins to approach this level of effort. So guess I get testy when people tell us "Olympia isn't doing enough". While Olympia, because of its larger sales tax base, has more resources to apply to these problems than other local jurisdictions, we are frustrated because the problem can only be addressed effectively on a regional basis. The other jurisdictions have shown little inclination in the past to work together to solve what they perceive as "Olympia's problem", that is, homeless street people in the downtown core. But the other local jurisdictions are actively planning for growth, and major retailers such as Costco (Tumwater) and Home Base (Lacey) are locating there, which means more sales tax revenue for them. Someday true downtown cores, with all their inherent problems and benefits, may actually develop in Lacey and Tumwater. I hope we will be working together to address the problems of "street people" long before then!

Olympia's population (35,000) should not have to carry the whole load. We need a regional approach. I think it should be led by the County.

Meanwhile, we have a shelter proposal being worked on by Associated Ministries. Here are some concerns that the community is going to want to have addressed before it commits to a large new shelter for street people in Olympia's downtown:

• Will there really be a credible effort to find a location other than downtown Olympia, or will any other sites just be "straw men"?

While there are valid arguments for a downtown site, these are all made from the point of view of the "customer" of shelter services. But what would be the effect on downtown? The City has invested more hundreds of thousands of dollars, matched by a much larger investment of money and "sweat equity" by business and property owners, all to bring the area back from near-death after the malls were built and everyone moved to the suburbs. The downtown is fraile. In the long term, the only way it will ever stabilize is if moderate- and middle-income people find it a good place to live as well as work, shop, and find entertainment. This trend, if we could ever "jump start" it, might even postpone or reduce the need to build expensive, publicly-funded parking structures if a significant part of downtown's customer base actually lived there and did not have to drive in from the outskirts to shop there. There have been increasing complaints of vandalism, shoplifting, drunkenness, panhandling, and other behavior downtown that merchants and their customers connect with the Bread and Roses Drop-in Center. Will the proposed shelter push the downtown "over the edge"? You might think this is a heartless question, but for business owners who may have mortgaged their homes to get started and depend on their customers for a living, it's real.

• Advocates seem to assume that a mass shelter is the best approach. One can hardly blame them, given the funding realities they deal with every day. But maybe it's not the best approach, for example, for those of the homeless who seem to be long-term residents of Olympia. Maybe it would be better for them, better for downtown, and possibly even cheaper to find some kind of individual accommodation. Others are mentally ill and need special arrangements. Some drug- and alcohol-impaired people need to be sent for treatment. True transients might find a small shelter the best available setup. I realize this is an ideal approach, and assumes some services that aren't in existence locally or are underfunded. But if we "just build it", will the big shelter allow the other jurisdictions and the community to breathe a temporary sigh of relief, never address the better approach, and go on to other things until the next crisis?

• Some homeless advocates insist there is no "magnet effect" of improved services drawing more customers from in or out of the local area. Others say that improved services enable deserving local people to leave difficult or even dangerous circumstances and improve their lives, so that even if improved services result in a larger population being served this is a good thing. Others say that "the word is out" among the transient population that Olympia is a good place to come – less dangerous and more friendly than Seattle or Tacoma. Just a few years ago, Salvation Army had only 12 beds to serve the homeless. Now it has 60 beds; the First Baptist Church is housing a similar number with overflow to other churches as needed, and specialized other providers such as Bread & Roses and Safeplace report "full houses" much of the time. Advocates say this represents a need that was always there, or was aggravated by economic, social, and political trends over the past few years, decades or administrations (pick your favorite). Whatever the truth of these conflicting views, any community has a right to wonder if there would always be more mouths to feed and people to shelter even if it poured 10 times the current resources into an expanded effort. Would there always be more street people in town? Would advocates always be telling us, "The City is not doing enough?"

Because of our society's willingness to ignore or underfund these social needs and because we don't agree on the problems' causes or solutions, we have been addressing them in an incoherent and fragmented way. We all deeply appreciate, and take advantage of the dedicated underpaid staffers and volunteer workers who provide these needed social services. While it's unrealistic to expect a completely "clean" organization chart approach to dealing with these issues, we need a way to make service delivery more efficient, more accountable, and more "measurable". Olympia's population (35,000) should not have to carry the whole load. We need a regional approach. I think it should be led by the County.

I believe that if the County Commissioners took the lead in a regional effort to address the full spectrum of homelessness and other social services, the cities and towns would have to respond. I believe Olympia would be happy to participate significantly in a regional arrangement akin to the inter-jurisdictional health contract, which provides us a predictable annual budget challenge and gives a clear line of accountability and a basis for measuring performance, so the taxpayers know what their money is buying. None of these four criteria is now being met consistently. Will such an approach "solve the problem?" I don't know, but it seems to make more sense than what we're doing now.

Thank you for writing. I understand many of you are also writing to the other jurisdictions. I'm glad. They are more likely to respond to their own constituents than to the City of Olympia when they are asked to commit to searching for a long-term solution to a very difficult problem. Meanwhile, Olympia will continue its existing programs and wait to see Associated Ministries' proposal. ✪

CITY OF OLYMPIA HOUSING FACT SHEET

1. CDBG Program (Since 1984) - CDBG and Rental Rehab Funds contributed almost entirely to housing rehab	
1993 allocation	**$300,000**
1993 general fund support for administration	**61,890**
2. General Fund - Downtown Housing Support $150,000/Yr (Since 1990)	
1993 - $40,000 split between Associated Ministries and Salvation Army for shelter support.	
3. HSRC Contribution	**$170,000/Yr**
1993 - About 40% of total allocated to shelter	
• CYS Haven House	
• Community Action Council Rental Assistance	
• Faith Homes - Brentwood Girls Home	
• Safeplace	
• Salvation Army Emergency Lodging	
• Housing Authority Emergency Shelter	
4. 1992 Special Contributions	
• Bread & Roses Remodel	**$ 40,000**
• Habitat for Humanity (4 Lots @ Subsidized Costs)	**$ 28,000**
5. 1991 Special Contributions	
• 2 houses for fire station headquarters site donated to Homes First and Habitat for Humanity	
• 1 lot sold to Habitat below market cost, less subsidy	**$ 10,000**
6. HSRC Homeless Study	**$ 5,000**

(C)ancelling (F)uture (C)atastrophies

Stephen J. Tassoni

In response to last month's article concerning the boycott of Du Pont, I am sending you this research paper on Chlorofluorcarbons and their effect on the environment and ozone layer.

From the far reaches of outer space the earth looks so peaceful and majestic, and as one takes in its beauty, one will notice a blue haze encompassing it. This blue haze is the only protection humanity has from the ultraviolet rays of the sun. If this protection were to deteriorate, the results would be an acceleration in global warming on a grand scale, not to mention disease of the planet and its inhabitants. Because ozone is an important requirement for the stability and safety of humanity, we must protect it.

As is now commonly known, that stability and safety has been tested and pushed to the extreme. For over the past thirty years society has been using chemicals that are creating a nasty reaction in the stratosphere that is destroying ozone at a ratio of 100,000 to 1, and leaving holes in the ozone layer. As of today four holes exist; one the size of the United States over Antarctica, and three more over Norway, Sweden and Spitzburg. Cfcs, or chlorofluorocarbons, are the primary cause of ozone destruction, but have a well known supporting cast of aggravants; the greenhouse gases carbon monoxide, nitrogen, and methane.

In a laboratory experiment, Sherwood Rolland and Mario Molina at the University of California Irvine showed that cfcs have a tremendous life span and a remarkable appetite for ozone. Cfcs simply do not break down in the lower atmosphere, they drift up into the stratosphere. Powerful amounts of ultraviolet light then tear them apart, causing a chemical reaction, a reaction that releases chlorine from the CFC molecule. This chlorine molecule then bonds with oxygen from the ozone molecule, forming a new and toxic bi-product, chlorinemonoxide. This process repeats up to 100,000 times per chlorine molecule, diminishing the amount of ozone which has resulted in the earth being unprotected from the harmful rays of the sun.

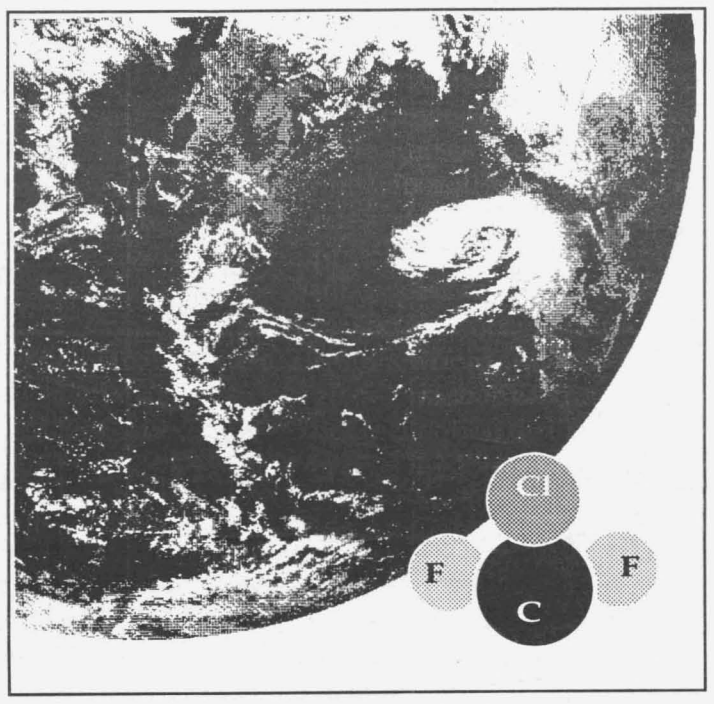
In the 1930's when CFCs were first discovered by Thomas Midgely, it was a remarkable break-through in the refrigeration industry. Midgley was a General Motors associate research chemist who was looking for a replacement refrigerant that possessed safer working chemicals than the ones that were being used then. Early refrigerators operated without the aid of electricity and used toxic chemicals such as sulfur dioxide; which corroded refrigerators' metal piping when trace amounts of air and moisture entered the system. Ammonia had added flammability problems, and methylene chloride was too unstable.

Midgely realized that the new refrigerant would have to possess certain characteristics unlike those that were being used during that time period. With this in mind, Midgley narrowed his choices to just eight elements: carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, hydrogen, and the halogens: fluorine, chlorine, and bromine. But the best composition, for the reaction desired, was in the halogens; by combining one atom of fluorine and one atom of carbon with two atoms of chlorine, Midgely produced the first chlorofluorocarbon.

Realizing the remarkable abilities these CFCs exhibited, other scientists and chemists advanced the achievements Midgely introduced. By the end of the 1940's CFCs had become the dominant refrigerant in refrigerators, improving the acceptance of the refrigerator. In the 1950's the aerosol industry adopted its application as a propellant, because it was less explosive than butane. Later, CFCs were adopted to create insulating foam, and again in 1970 as the primary cleaning agent for electronic components. In half a century, hundred of products were being made with the assistance of CFCs. The growth of CFC use in the world was truly phenomenal.

Until 1971, nobody thought to ask what kind of effect CFCs might have on the environment. In fact, Midgely ignored the long term effects, and as a result, 3% of the ozone layer has been lost, and the hole above Antarctica will exist for at least another hundred years.

Atmospheric scientists and chemists like Joseph Farmen, Sherwood Rolland, and Mario Molina have all done experiments on the effect of CFCs and the ozone layer, and the discovery that holds true by each is that when CFCs are broken down in the stratosphere, the sole tendency of chlorine is to destroy ozone. Furthermore, the life span of a chlorine molecule in the stratosphere is a hundred years, which means all the CFCs that were being used 30 years ago are still there, creating a bigger problem than first believed.



The predicaments that society will face if we continue to follow the path we are currently on leads to an increase in the deterioration of human health, with more cases of blindness, eye cataracts, and skin cancer. Plus, there will be shortages in drinkable water, crops will not produce as abundantly, and oceans will rise; drowning countries like Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

With such a ugly possible future, I would think that corporations that manufacture CFCs would willingly look for an alternative chemical. But, companies like Du Pont have been saying for 30 years now, "if there is any scientific proof that CFCs are damaging the ozone layer, we will stop production and look for a new compound." It did look pretty promising for a while. In the 1970's Du Pont financed a multi-million dollar research program to find an alternative compound. But after the government banned CFC use in aerosol cans, Du Pont completely abandoned its projects without finding any alternatives.

In the 1980's the worlds governments got together in Montreal, Canada and hammered out a piece of legislation, The Montreal Protocol, that will ban all CFC and HCFC use, but not until 2010. In the interim, companies like Du Pont are salivating uncontrollably. In the next 17 years Du Pont stands to make at least $245 million a year from CFC sales.

This leaves the government stuck between a rock and a hard place. But from past examples it seems that the government is favoring big corporation over the small guy. I wonder why that is? Money, campaign contributions, or interest group influence?

At a 1981 May conference on the CFC debate, the Reagan administration proposed people wear hats, sunglasses and suntan lotion as personal protection to ward off increased exposure to ultraviolet light. The proposal was immediately criticized as an extremely expensive and an ineffectual solution. The estimated cost of outfitting every man, woman and child in the nation with a $25 pair of sunglasses, a $10 hat, and two $5 bottles of suntan lotion would total $10 billion a year, ten times more than a CFC production freeze. Obviously, one cannot protect crops or the marine environment with personal protection, it's very hard to get a fish to wear sunglasses and sunscreen.

The future is here. It is time that industry and government, despite their differences, start working together as a team, and develop a safer compound that will perform identically to CFCs.

I propose industries start using HCFCs as an alternative to CFCs. HCFCs are hydrogen based chlorocarbons, which means they are about 1/20 as destructive as CFCs. But because HCFCs are also destructive to the ozone layer, industries will be given a 5 year grace period, starting in 1996 to use HCFCs until an alternative can be found. After the five years, HCFCs, will also be banned from use because of their contributing effects to the ozone epidemic.

To further the development of alternative choices to CFCs, there should be a $5 tax installed per pound, on all CFC manufacturing. This tax money will be distributed into a fund that will aid the development and research of alternative compounds. The reason for such a tax is to create an equality between CFCs and the new compound.

(Continued next page)

It is time that industry and government, despite their differences, start working together as a team, and develop a safer compound that will perform identically to CFCs.

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Peacekeeping, Corporate Style

Ron Jacobs

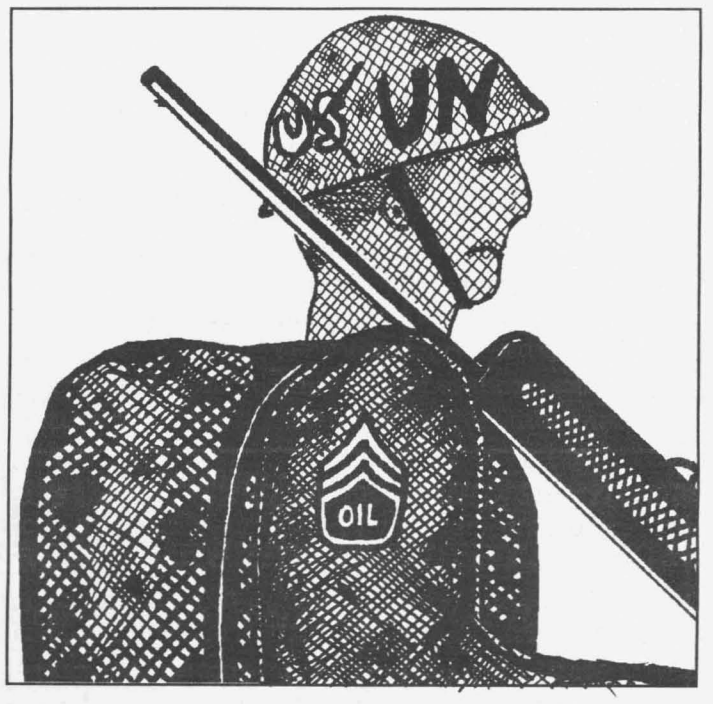
Like I usually do in the morning, on June 12 I stopped at one of the many bookstores in the downtown shopping district here in Burlington, VT. Grabbing a copy of the local Gannett-owned daily, I began to open the paper to the sports section when the main headline on the front page caught my eye. "U.N. attacks Mogadishu," it said. The article continued, stating that troops under the command of the United Nations had bombed and strafed parts of the Somali city the previous evening. Great, I thought, fatten them up and then kill them.

Desiring a bit more information, I then looked at the day's *New York Times*. The headlines there read, "U.S. Troops lead U.N. Attack on Mogadishu...." Somewhat uncharacteristically, I thought, the *Times* was closer to the truth. By the third day of the attacks, however, both papers agreed, with the Gannett paper echoing the *Times* statement that, indeed, it was the U.S. who attacked.

I read these stories somewhat distressed, not because I ever really thought that peace was a possibility when thousands of heavily-armed soldiers are sent anywhere, but because the attacks were one more victory for the new free trade world order, in which multinational bankers and their industrial henchmen create their own peace according to their investments. (U.S. oil companies won over 70% of the drilling rights in Somali.) Unlike the past, this time if nation-states wish to have a piece of the action, they must play the roles assigned to them. Instead of being partners in the imperial game, they have been relegated to the role of footmen, paper-pushers, and soldiers.

...one more victory for the new free trade world order, in which multinational bankers and their industrial henchmen create their own peace according to their investments.

Soldiers wear the blue helmets of the United Nations. In a cynical masquerade, this is an army which pretends to have no other interests than the interests of peace in mind. In reality, it has taken over what were once police operations conducted by European powers in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and then by the United States after World War II. Just as multinational interests are reshaping the world's trade through agreements like NAFTA and the Maastricht Treaty, they are reshaping the world's military chain of command. The U.S. military remains the supreme commander of the protectors of corporate profits. Just like their banks remain the primary manipulator of those profits.



This is really no surprise. After all, the structure of the U.N. is such that the supposed will of the world body is the will of the world's powers. It's not for just any reason that the Security Council is made up of the victors of World War II. There has been but one brief moment in time when the possibility that the rest of the world's nations would actually exercise any real power in the United Nations. This was when the non-aligned movement existed in a somewhat homogenous fashion in the 1970s. Even then, no real action which countered U.S. interests was possible, given the veto power Council members possess.

This interpretation of the role of the U.N. in the new world order differs from that of the far right, who fear the loss of American prestige and neocolonial power in that they recognize that these changes are occurring not because the Antichrist (or some other more earthbound conspiracy) is at work, but because the needs of the corporate universe have changed. Just as the growth of internal capitalism in the 18th and 19th centuries required the expansion of capital and created, by necessity, colonialism and then imperialism, the continual imperialist expansion of the past several decades requires another realignment of the world's political power structure.

Which brings us to the next, and perhaps the most frightening, aspect of the unfolding scenario. A redivision of the spoils. In the last ninety some years, the world has seen two world wars and a variety of smaller ones which attempted to maintain markets and resources according to the corporate needs of the nationally based empires which are slowly dissolving. If the current treaties being negotiated in the boardrooms and political power centers of the world fail to achieve another redivision, or even if they do, is another disastrous round of slaughter in the cards? Somalia, and, now, Macedonia, may merely be practice rounds. ✪

(CFC's, continued)

CFCs are very inexpensive to manufacture and use, and large corporations who manufacture CFCs are afraid they will lose money if they have to use an unfamiliar compound. What the $5 tax will do is bring the price of CFCs to the same level as the new compound, creating an equality of price.

As for recycling, it will cost CFC companies a larger amount of money to convert the old machinery and factories into an industry aimed at recovery, than it would to develop a new compound. Also, having just a few recycling plants across the nation will escalate the price of recycling CFCs.

The solution should fall on the heads of the manufacturers of CFCs. If Du Pont, Allied-Signal, Pennwalt, and Kaiser invest 25% of their sales for the next 17 years, it will contribute an additional $125 million dollars a year to research and development of an alternative compound. If the companies refuse to invest in the future, then it is up to us to make them more willing to help. For example, I will, and you should, boycott all Du Pont and Seagrams products to put pressure on them. Write letters to Du Pont expressing your concerns and feelings. Write letters to your representatives to put pressure on them to pass legislation faster.

Through the years society has developed into a disposable state -- use it once and throw it away. We only have one world, let's take care of it. Next time you go out shopping or to eat, tell them they should package their products and food in paper -- demand paper! Buy rechargeable batteries, look for refrigerators and air conditioners that don't use CFC's. They *are* out there. Together, we can make a difference. ✪

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Gay Community and Bigot Busting

Tom Freeman

On June 9, 1993 I attended a founding meeting of Hands Off Washington Thurston County, a chapter of the statewide organization opposing the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) and its counterpart - the Citizens Alliance of Washington (CAW) - in their attempts to mandate hate, bigotry and discrimination against the Gay community in Washington state. Through many conversations with community members, it appears that numerous people are not aware that the promised upcoming anti-Gay initiative is not the first such attempt to deny fundamental human rights via the ballot box. The last statewide initiative attempt aimed at repealing all Gay rights statutes and outlawing anti-discrimination clauses in housing, employment and public accommodations - initiative 490 - happened in 1986 under the direction of none other than former state legislators Glen Dobbs, Dick Van Dyke (not to be confused with the actor) and current legislator and hate-monger Steve Fuhrman. Glen Dobbs was the main speaker at the anti-gay hate feast held on May 15 at one local headquarters for the "Christian" right bigots: Tumwater Evangelical Church. In other words, the players and their attempt to deny basic human and civil rights are not entirely new to Washington state. They are the same slithering snakes crawling out from under their rocks of hatred ready to do battle once again.

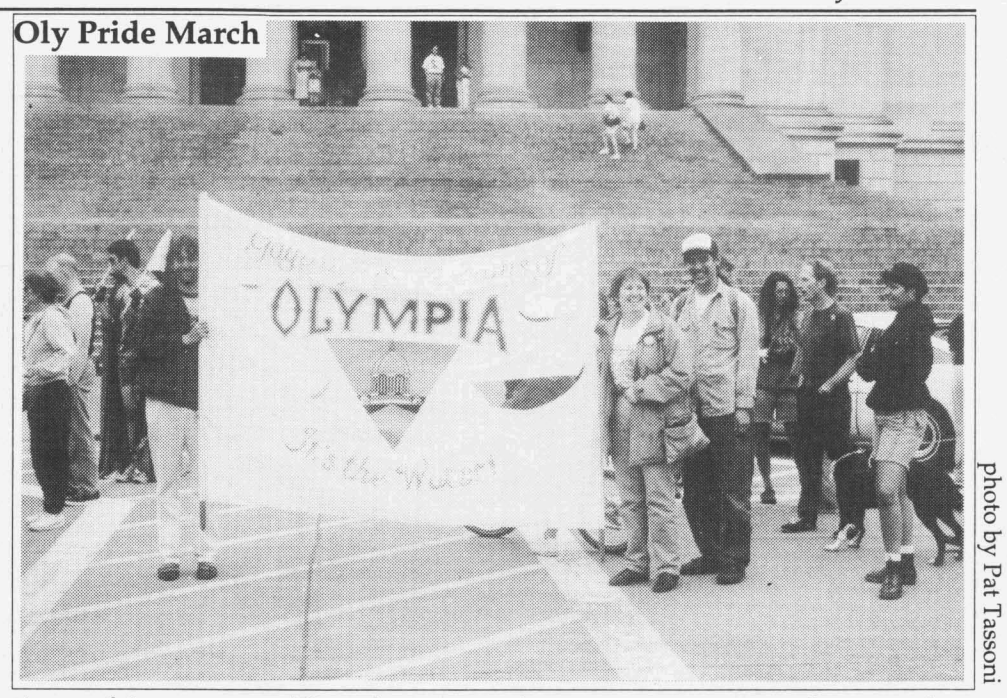
Currently, Washington activists are turning to Oregonians to learn what they can about the OCA and the best strategies to oppose the upcoming hate initiative. While learning what we can about OCA and Measure 9 is helpful to our side, I believe that we can learn as much by reviewing what happened in our own state in 1986. Initiative 490 began as a bill in the legislature by Dobbs and company and upon its defeat, Dobbs announced that he would start an initiative to do what legislators refused to do: deny human rights to Gays and Lesbians. Initiative 490 was born. A funny thing happened on the way to signature gathering, though. Apparently the right so abhors this community that they couldn't even spell the word "homosexual" correctly. After printing all their initiatives, the hate proponents lost two weeks of valuable signature gathering by misspelling the word as "hommosexual." We found that mistake to be particularly amusing.

Signature gathering began in earnest, of course, in right-wing fundamentalist churches, through anti-abortion groups and in front of grocery stores, plus in and outside of shopping malls. At the same time this statewide initiative was happening, Seattle activists were opposing a county initiative to repeal un-incorporated King County's new provisions protecting individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. As often happens in a community under siege, a split occurred between those who believed in counter-petitioning against the hate initiatives and those who felt that we should simply plan an effective campaign and hope to win in the fall. I was fortunate to work at the *Seattle Gay News* as a reporter and activist and was part of a new organizing strategy known as "bigot busting" - a strategy which Oregonians did not use in 1988 against the OCA's first anti-Gay initiative which passed - but did adopt from Seattle and use last year against Measure 9, which was ultimately defeated. Such comparisons are dangerous, however, as I will explain in a moment.

"Bigot Busting" involved hundreds of community activists. It entailed going wherever signature gathering was happening, having materials explaining the myths, lies and misrepresentations of the initiative plus pointing out the ramifications of its passage. Bigot busters would ask anyone approached by the bigots, to read our literature *before* signing the initiative. Upon learning the truth about 490, many people who probably would have signed the initiative without a thought would be confronted with information dispelling myths about our community and decide not to sign. Others, seeing a controversy of any sort, would avoid the tables all together and some would gleefully sign the initiative in front of the counter-petitioners a.k.a. bigot busters. A phone network was arranged with folks all around the state calling in to say, "bigots have been sighted at the Burien Safeway collecting 490 signatures. Send out the Bigot Buster Brigade quick!" This strategy ultimately succeeded: Initiative 490 failed to garner the signatures necessary to get on the ballot.

This time, with the organizing skills of the OCA, the anti-Gay initiative may succeed in garnering signatures. But Washington is very different from Oregon. From our earliest days, settlement patterns between the two states have been fundamentally different. For example, the Ku Klux Klan found early political receptivity (even approving an early state governor) in Oregon where blacks were denied the ability to own property, at the same time that Washingtonians permitted early land settlement and ownership by blacks. Washington was founded predominately by agrarian farmers seeking a socialist economic and political system. Such political and social values still dominant the way we handle elections in this state (i.e. the number of independent offices we vote for and the lack of party registration). Washington's largest city - Seattle - is well known as the first city in the country to stop Anita Bryant's anti-Gay initiative crusades in 1978 with a decisive 4-1 vote in favor of protecting sexual minorities. Washington continues to be more activist and progressive and I believe the OCA or CAW will find a greater level of difficulty in pursuing their agenda here. I tend to doubt the assertion by one of the Oregon activists that the Washington homophobes will re-file their hate initiative year-after-year in light of the fact that after their 1986 defeat, the right has not pursued another initiative until now. A decisive defeat in Washington should send them slithering back under the dark hell holes they've emerged from.

Most importantly for us, we need to remember that every person in our community is vital in fighting bigotry, hatred, intolerance, fear, assault, murder, etc. Unity must be our overall guiding principle reminding us that we are family. Fighting amongst ourselves strengthens the right. We must work within the processes that make us most comfortable, while recognizing that other processes will be undertaken which we may find personally distasteful. Remember the theme of the March on Washington. Together, proud and strong! Solidarity! ✪



Oly Pride March

photo by Pat Tassoni

Oly Pride March

photo by Dave Campbell

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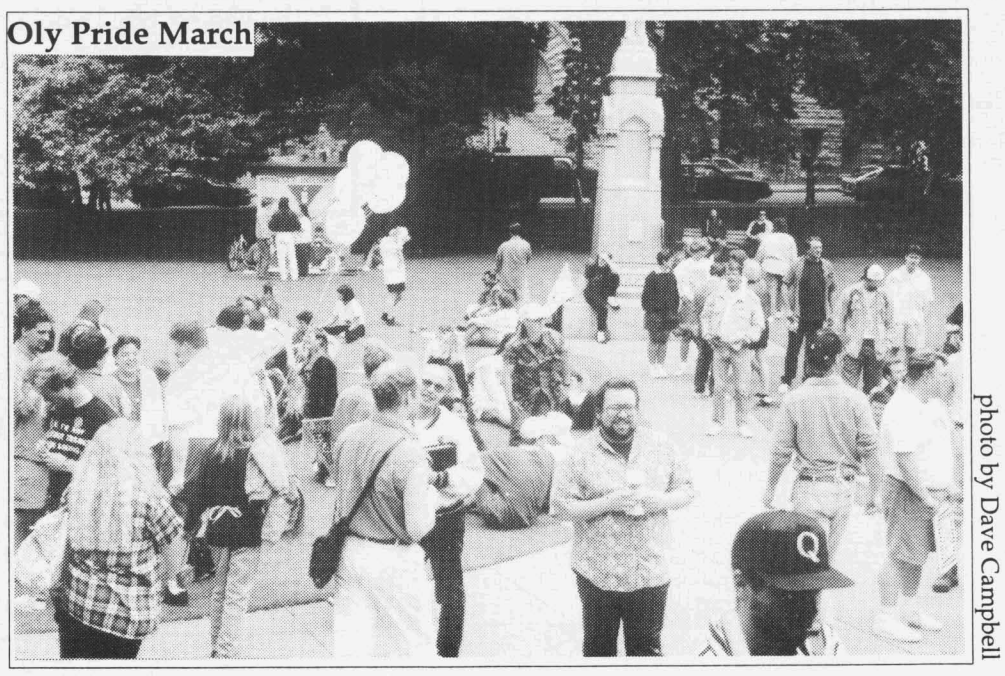

Oly Pride March

photo by Dave Campbell

Socialist Leaflet

Reply with concrete and Practical Solution

Socialist Party of Canada

Class Struggle: B.S. or What!?

You probably believe that in American society there are no classes. Of course there are the poor and the rich, but certainly no classes... And even if there were classes, we're all in the broad middle class anyway, so this class struggle business has nothing to do with you anyway, right?

Wrong!

Let's examine the socialist claim to the existence and relevance of classes in America. First of all, what is a class? Several dictionary definitions help set up a base from which we can work:

1) A group having something in common; a category

2) A grouping based on social or economic status.

3) A rating according to quality, rank, etc.

While any of these three definitions could be used as a starting point, let's go with the second one. If we are then to claim that there are different classes in American society, we must show that there is a reasonable way to group people into classes based upon social or economic status.

We take the stand that the relationship of people to the *means of production* is what determines their class, and that this relationship is a social and economic status.

What we mean by a person's relationship to the means of production is whether the person owns the land, factories, or businesses (and therefore the means by which production can take place) or works for those who do own them. If you own the means of production, you are part of the capitalist class. But if you are dependant on a wage or salary (or upon welfare or unemployment comp.), you're in the working class.

Is this definition reasonable? First of all, it isn't new: Adam Smith used it in 1776 in his book *The Wealth of Nations*, and it has been in common usage ever since. The rich seem to have no objection to being called capitalists. Those of us who are dependant on a wage or salary know who we are. In other words, this definition has achieved common usage, and it is workable - members of the classes can be identified, at least theoretically.

Big Deal - So What if there Are Classes?

Even if there are classes, what difference does it make? So what if you're working class? You do your job, get your pay, tend to your own affairs, and try to enjoy your life. Well, if everything was always rosy, perhaps it wouldn't make any difference, but consider what this class division really means.

We live in a capitalist world. In every country, wealth - in the form of commodities such as lumber milled, widgets manufactured, services rendered, or whatever - is produced for sale at a profit. That profit is derived from your unpaid labor. In other words, if your wages are $300. per week, then you must create more than $300. of wealth - in one form or another - for your employer every week. It would not make any economic sense for your boss to keep you on the payroll very long unless you consistently created more value than you received in wages. For every, say, $5. you produce for him or her, the boss kindly gives you back $2. That $2. is taken out of the wealth that you yourself produce. The boss pockets the other $3., to use as he sees fit. Your wage, then, is the payment that your employer gives you for the commodity which you sell him: your *labor power*. And, you do not own any of what you have produced in this relationship. You may be able to buy back some of what you produced, but until then it is owned by the capitalist(s) for whom you work.

1. Join a union and bring your class- and social-consciousness in with you. Fight for economic democracy and workers' power.
2. Next election, don't waste your vote on candidates of the two big- business parties

Just as important is the fact that your wage is not even directly related to the wealth that you produce. It *is* related to how much a worker with your experience, abilities, etc. costs on the job market and how much it would cost to eliminate your job with a machine. You've heard about the law of supply and demand - if there is a large supply of workers, and small demand for their labor, you can be sure that wages will be low. Or, if the work you do is in great demand and there are few who possess your skills, then your wages will be relatively high. But this good or bad fortune on your part does not change your class status.

But you work for the State, not in the private sector? Well, the function of government in a class society is to administer the state for, and in the interests of, the ruling class. You are still a wage worker, subject to the same rules, demands, and alienation as our brothers and sisters working in the private sector. You still depend upon your wage or salary, and as many yuppies have discovered during this round of recession, "downscaling", and layoffs, high-salary jobs can disappear just as quickly as low-wage jobs. No job is guaranteed to be forever, and nobody has any leverage power on their employer for very long.

A Minor Digression on Unemployment

Corporations attempt to maximize their profits. No big surprise here! To do this they generally want to produce as much as possible while keeping costs, including labor costs, as low as possible. They have to, or they wouldn't survive in this system for long. Since wages are, in part, determined by the number of workers available, having a pool of unemployed workers is desirable to the employers in order to help keep wages low. By throwing the workers of Mexico into this pool, NAFTA will be a strong force keeping wages, as well as environmental health standards, low.

Another Digression: On Quality

Another way to keep costs down is to produce poor quality goods. The supporters of free-market capitalism tell us that the marketplace will weed out the poor-quality items and manufacturers will be forced to produce nothing but the best. The fault with this claim is that most people have to consider not only the quality of the merchandise they want, but also its cost. Most of us find too much month left at the end of the paycheck. There is a strong incentive to buy lower-cost items, which frequently tend to be of poorer quality.

Also included in the price of goods is the cost of environmental quality. It has been seen by business as cheaper to pollute than to protect environmental quality. So they do pollute. They pay the fines, they even get government permits to pollute. What incentive has business to be environmentally clean? Recent advertising by business about their environmental concern is no more than that: advertising. The green movement has not yet changed the overall reality of environmental degradation under capitalism.

Back to Class

Thinking straight about class is important because the capitalist class and the working class have different interests. The capitalist class benefits from low wages and from unemployment. How many workers want low wages, or hope to lose their jobs? The capitalist class *can* live on luxury estates in areas of low pollution if they wish. The working class must either live in the communities, or within commuting distance from where the jobs are, and generally spend at least 40 hours a week in that environment. The capitalist class need not worry about poor quality goods: they can afford the best. When a person is born, is the child of the rich more deserving than your child?

That's Just the Way It Is!

Correct! Society has evolved such that a small group of people, by virtue of either acquiring vast fortunes by exploiting the working class, or being heirs to those who have, rule society in their own interests. The bottom line in their decision-making is maximization of profit. While the faces of our senators, governors, and other politicians may change, the real power in our country remains in the hands of this elite. This numerically small, but very powerful class need not work for a living because the working class does the work for them. We run their system, We create the wealth, They reap the profits.

The capitalist class has not always existed and there is no reason that it should continue to exist. Capitalism is legalized robbery of the working class, and the working class has the ability to stop the robbery.

Don't Vote for any Capitalist Party!

Many workers have recognized that they are not getting their fair "piece of the pie" and therefore vote and work for candidates that claim to be on the side of workers. The Democrats have a reputation for being the "friends of labor". But the Democrats don't suggest that the capitalist system should be eliminated - instead they pretend that somehow capitalism can be reformed in our interests. But history does not support this claim. When the Democrats get into power, things may marginally improve, but they must function within the rules of the system, since that is what they were elected to govern. Those rules are heavily weighted against the working class. As a result, Democratic administrations are not significantly different than those of Republicans. With very few exceptions, Democrats have not stood up to corporate power to defend our interests. Instead, they meekly seek compromise.

The problem is not that some governments dislike workers. The problem is that capitalism cannot function in the interest of the working class. It was never designed to.

So What is the Solution? Socialism!

The preceding article was adapted from a leaflet produced by the Socialist Party of Canada, a real "point of light". Their address is: Box 4280, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8X 3X8.

See Dave Zink's Reply with Solution back page.

Boycott: Diamond Walnut Growers Called By: International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union Local #601

Zachary D. Lyons

Nutshell: On September 4, 1991, 500 Teamsters Union workers at Diamond Walnut were forced by Diamond to go out on strike to preserve their economic and working conditions, Teamster Local #601 charges. "Diamond Walnut immediately permanently replaced the strikers" the Teamsters charge. "Just prior to the strike, the workers were actually forced to train the scabs that were to replace them. Diamond Walnut's behavior has been labelled as the most immoral and vicious treatment of an entire work force in the annals of modern labor relations."

Diamond Walnut has had a contract with Teamsters Local #601 for almost forty years. The employees have never previously gone out on strike. "Most of the regular work force at Diamond Walnut have over twenty years of seniority," reports the Teamsters. "Six years ago, these same faithful employees took severe wage cuts of over 30% to bail out and save their failing company. Entry level wages were reduced to $4.25 per hour.

"The bailout worked, and the company became profitable," the union boasts. "The two years preceding the strike actually produced record profits for the company, and windfall bonuses for its top management. Instead of returning even a portion of the workers' previously reduced wages, in their selfish greed for further profits and bonuses, management actually demanded further economic concessions from their workers.

"In contrast to the many years of service of the replaced work force, the top management team at Diamond Walnut are newcomers," the Teamsters point out. "The Chief Executive Officer, Bill Cuff, and his right hand man, Bob Marek, had less than one year of service with Diamond Walnut prior to the strike.

"Seventy-five percent of the replaced striking Diamond Walnut workers are female. Many of them were working in nontraditional jobs, such as fork lift operators, mechanics, and equipment operators. Longevity of employment and a Union contract helped them upgrade their jobs, and motivated them to improve their job skills and live the American Dream," proclaims Teamsters Local #601. "Diamond Walnut management does not believe that this is the work force they need to carry them through the decade of the nineties and into the next century. The scabs that they have been hiring for these jobs are mostly younger males."

"The main areas of disagreement have been economic issues," states Sandra McBride, Communications Manager for the Diamond Walnut Growers cooperative. "For decades Diamond has been the highest paying employer in the California walnut industry and one of the very few to provide the full range of health benefits to its workers and their families. We are the largest processor in the industry and the most technologically-advanced, and leadership in wages and benefits is consistent with our overall position of industry leadership. However, by 1985 the gap between Diamond's wages and the wages paid by its competitors had grown to enormous proportions, placing Diamond at a severe competitive disadvantage. Even after the union agreed to substantial wage rate reductions in the 1985 negotiations, reductions which were offset by significant one-time bonuses, Diamond remained the industry leader in wages and benefits, and we remain so today.

"Wage rates at the expiration of the contract ranged from $5.73 to $15.00 per hour. Current wage rates range from $6.20 to $15.35 per hour," Diamond's McBride explains. "Our workers receive a complete package of medical and dental insurance for only $11.91 per employee per month. I would also like to point out that the health insurance Diamond provides for its workers contains no deductibles. In other words, for the small monthly out-of-pocket premium payment, the employee has virtually 100 percent cost coverage for health care..."

McBride continues, "Another important feature of Diamond's pay structure is the Grower Return Incentive Plan, an innovative bonus program which the union also rejected. This program guarantees an annual bonus pool of $100,000 for distribution to workers based on the hours worked and the job classification in which those hours were worked. The bonus pool can go up to $800,000, depending on the company's performance. In December of 1992 Diamond distributed a bonus pool of $378,500 to its approximately 300 employees."

...the workers were forced to choose between working with no health care, or standing up for their rights and the standard of living they had worked so hard to achieve. When they decided to defend their contract, they were* permanently replaced *on their jobs within a week of the start of the strike.

But the Teamsters' Ron Carver argues that, "In 1991, with no wage increase since the 30% cut in 1985, management demanded that the workers accept *additional* concessions - concessions which would have required employees earning as little as $6.10 an hour, to pay $31 or more a month for health insurance. This meant that many of the low paid workers at Diamond would have had to go without any health insurance whatsoever. The wage increase proposed for each year of the contract was a mere 10 cents an hour for most workers.

"When the workers found these terms unacceptable," says the Director of the Teamsters Office of Strategic Campaigns, Ron Carver, "Ms. McBride claims the Company became 'increasingly alarmed over the gulf that remained' between the union and management. In other words, Diamond Walnut was dismayed because the workers did not submit to its demands. For this, we make no apologies.

"...the workers were forced to choose between working with no health care, or standing up for their rights and the standard of living they had worked so hard to achieve. When they decided to defend their contract, they were *permanently replaced* on their jobs within a week of the start of the strike.

"Many of these veteran employees have given their working lives to Diamond Walnut," Carver emphasizes. "They have endured economic sacrifices to help get the Company back on sound financial footing. Now, they justifiably feel betrayed by the very Company they worked so hard to save."

The Teamsters' Carver continues, "The claim that Diamond pays the highest wages and practically stands alone in offering full health coverage, can be easily disproved. Mayfair Nut Processing Co., a major competitor in the industry, pays wages starting at $7.86 per hour, and range up to $10.85 per hour. Mayfair's top rate is lower than Diamond's only because Mayfair has no Master Mechanic or Power Plant Operator job classifications - the two highest paid jobs at Diamond Walnut.

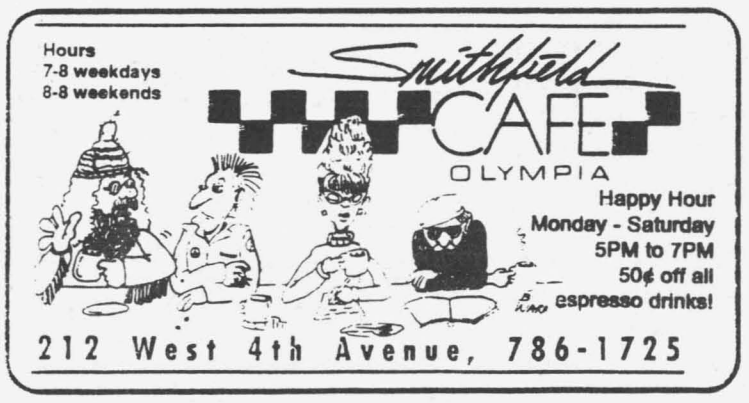
"As far as health benefits," says Carver, "Mayfair pays $457.25 per month on behalf of each regular and seasonal employee who is eligible. No employee co-payment is required."

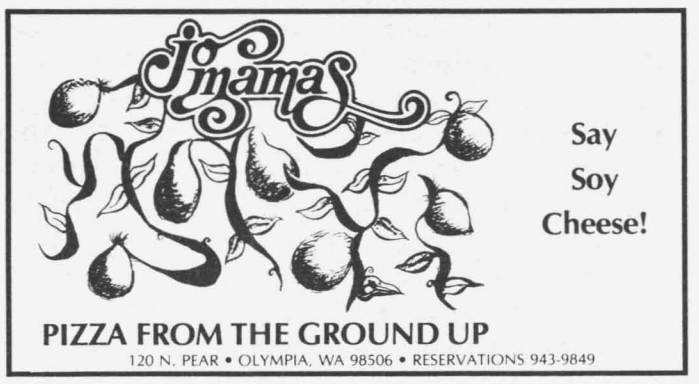
"Although the material furnished to you by the Teamsters contains many distortions and inaccuracies," charges Diamond Walnut's Sandra McBride, "I am particularly disturbed by allegations that Diamond forced the strike which occurred on September 4, 1991. This is simply not the case. During negotiations Diamond made significant movement on major contract issues, including wages and benefits, in order to come closer to unreasonable union demands. We also worked hard throughout those months to educate the workers themselves about the economic opportunities the contract offer contained. Unfortunately, they chose to vote down the offer and go out on strike.

"The most critical time of year in the walnut processing business is the six-week harvest period which normally begins in September each year," states McBride. "As it turned out, the 1991 crop was the largest walnut crop in California history - 245,000 tons. Approximately half of this was delivered to Diamond's plant for processing and packaging within a few short weeks.

"As you can see, the strike hit us at our most vulnerable time," insists McBride. "In order to process the incoming crop for the 2300 growers and their families who own Diamond, we had to hire replacement workers. These people were the target of physical and verbal abuse at the union picket line, and they struggled under difficult conditions inside the plant to familiarize themselves with the equipment and processes. They have proven to be an

(Continued next page)





(Boycott, continued)

outstanding, well-motivated work force, having achieved production efficiencies, quality standards and safety records which are the envy of the industry. While we are deeply sympathetic with the personal plight of workers who remain on strike, we feel an obligation to the workers who saw us through the most difficult processing season in the cooperative's history. Without their hard work and commitment, the farming families who rely on Diamond to process their crops and get the walnuts to market would have suffered tremendous financial hardship."

But the Teamsters Ron Carver does not see it that way.

"It is appalling to us that Diamond Walnut talks about living up to an 'obligation' to the scab workers who have been with the company for a few months, while it feels no such responsibility to the veteran workers who dedicated their working lives to Diamond Walnut, some for as long as 20 or 30 years," Carver contends. "These veteran workers were loyal to the Company during years of financial struggle. They took a 30-40 percent pay cut to help Diamond get back on its feet. Diamond invested the savings in new technologies, doubled its productivity, and cut its payroll in half.

"The company recovered with $171 million in net profits in 1991. Growers got a 30 percent return on their investment. That same year, when it came time for the employees to negotiate a new contract, how were they thanked for their hard work, sacrifice, and dedication? The Company demanded more concessions, sought a large co-payment for health insurance, and would not guarantee providing health care at all after the first year of the contract.

"For the first time in forty years, the workers were forced out on strike," maintains the Teamsters' Carver. "If Ms. McBride finds this claim 'particularly disturbing,' the strikers find the callous, unjust actions of their employer even more so."

Teamsters Local #601 is asking consumers to boycott all Diamond Walnut Growers products, as well as products which use Diamond Walnuts as an ingredient, until the Company agrees to an approriate contract with the union.

For more information, or to express your concerns, you may reach Diamond Walnut Growers and the Teamsters as follows:

Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc.
1050 South Diamond Street
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 467-6000

International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL-CIO
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 624-6800

The Boycott Monthly *is written by Zachary D. Lyons and published by the Center for Economic Democracy (CED), PO Box 64, Olympia, WA 98507-0064.* *©1993 CED.*

(Bicycles, continued)

Jay Eaton, City of Tumwater, 555 Israel Road, Tumwater 98501. Phone 754-4140.

Lacey residents should contact Dave Burns at 491-5642 to express your views and learn more about the transportation element of their Comprehensive Plan. Written comments can be sent to:

City of Lacey, Community Development, Attn: Dave Burns, P.O. Box "B", Lacey 98503

If you live outside these three cities, or if you have further questions, give us a call at the Energy Outreach Center at 943-4595.

How Can We Invest in Bicycling?

Take a look at an amazing set of investments identified by the Eugene group Auto-Relief as an alternative to planned road-building projects. Four major highway projects are planned for the next seven years in the Eugene area at a cost of $157 million. Auto-Relief asked the simple question, "What else could we do with $157 million?", and proposed the following:

Give every resident of Eugene, over age 11 and capable of riding, a free commuting bicycle complete with basket, fenders, lock, lights, rain gear, and a helmet. Total cost: $41.9 million.

AND install 10,000 bicycle racks at various locations around the city. Total cost: $0.5 million.

AND install 10,000 bicycle lockers at various locations around the city for use free of charge. Total cost: $3.5 million.

AND give away to carpoolers 10,000 car racks for carrying bicycles. Total cost: $0.5 million.

AND give away 10,000 free bicycle trailers for carrying children and/or cargo. Total cost: $2 million.

AND complete all 30 miles of off-street bicycle paths listed on the Eugene Bicycle Master Plan. Total cost: $5 million.

AND increase the funding for the local ride-share program tenfold until the year 2000. Total cost: $1.4 million.

AND completely eliminate the bus fare for all existing transit routes until the year 2000. Total cost: $15.8 million.

AND provide free bus service to the Eugene airport every half hour from 5am to 11pm, 7 days a week until the year 2000. Total cost: $3 million.

AND spend $1 million a year to administer these new programs. Total cost: $7 million.

Intercity Transit will be installing bicycle racks on its buses for all mainlines and all rural routes, 7 days a week, by the end of the year at the latest.

AND completely eliminate the projected City of Eugene budget shortfall from now until the year 2000. Total cost: $58 million.

AND give $100 cash to every adult resident of Eugene. Total cost: $9 million.

AND there's still $7.1 million left over that could be used for a new public library or simply to reduce property taxes.

Good News!

Intercity Transit (IT) will be installing bicycle racks on its buses for all mainlines and all rural routes, 7 days a week, by the end of the year at the latest. IT deserves a lot of credit: they also welcomed the "commuter feedback" from the Oil Smart campaign held in March and they have had very high employee participation in both Oil Smart and the Bike Commuter Contest.

To congratulate them and/or to learn more about their bike rack program, call 786-1881.

Resources for the Bike Commuter

For a free 40-page booklet developed especially to advise new bicyclists, write to: Bicycling Magazine New Rider Network, Box 6075, Emmaus, PA 18098. They want to know your name, address, age, gender, whether you bought a bike in the last 6 months, and if you plan to buy a bike in the next 6 months.

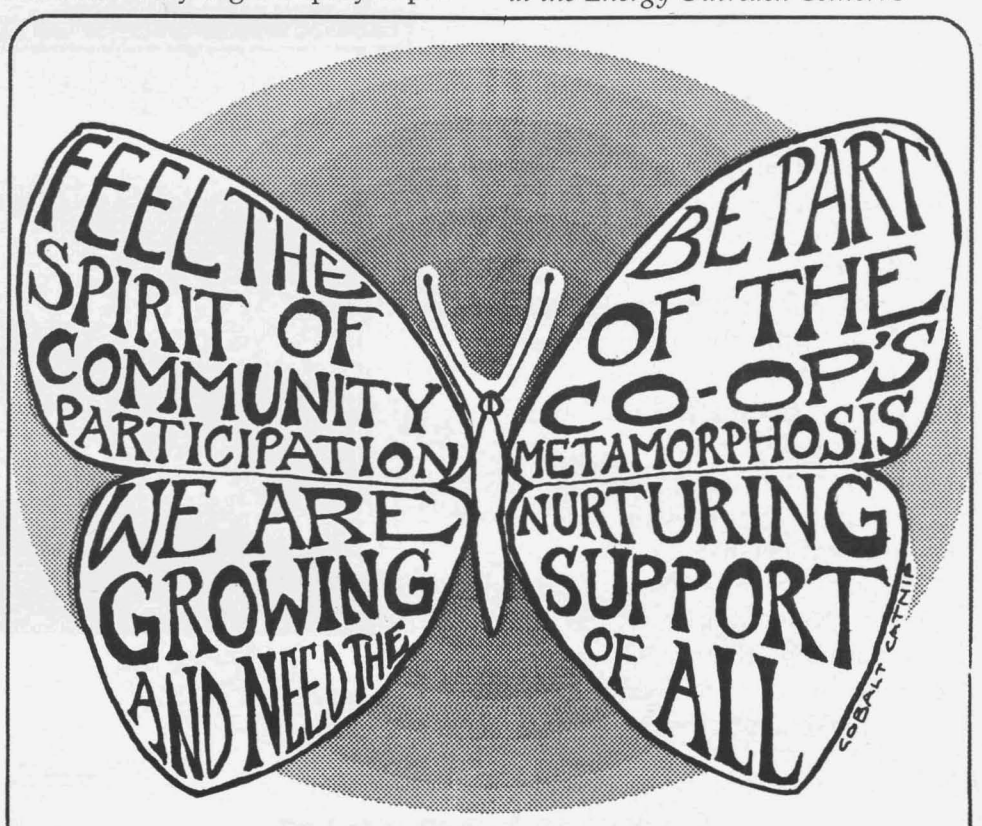
To obtain a discount coupon for a bicycle helmet for each of your children, call the Bicycle Helmet Hotline at 1-800-537-4756.

To educate your employer on how they can accommodate bicyclists, send $1 to the League of American Wheelman, 190 W. Ostend St, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21230. Request the Employer's Guide "How to Commute By Bicycle".

To get information for your employer about bicycle parking racks, contact: the Bicycle Parking Foundation, P.O. Box 7342, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215-222-1253.

The trick to trigger traffic signals while on bicycle is to approach an intersection in the center of the lane. For more information, contact Myron Henrickson, traffic signal supervisor at the City of Olympia, 753-8163.

Rhys is Transportation Coordinator at the Energy Outreach Center.


FEEL THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
WE ARE GROWING AND NEED THE
BE PART OF THE CO-OP'S METAMORPHOSIS
NURTURING SUPPORT OF ALL
COBALT CATNIP

Feel the beat,
Be part of the music
that is creating a
harmonious community.
Volunteer at the Co-op

Olympia Food Co-op
921 N. Rogers
Olympia, WA 98502
754-7666

Volunteers recieve a 25% discount on purchases

The WILD SIDE NATURE STORE
MON-SAT 10:00-5:30
SUN 12:00-4:00
Nesting Boxes
Native Plants-Wildflower Seeds
Field Guides-Nature Books
Butterfly Supplies
Gifts for Kids of any Age
507 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501
206-754-8666

(Zink, continued)

Somehow the idea of class distinctions sounds "un-American". Actually, the idea that our society is either not class-based, or that through hard work anybody can gain admission to "the establishment", is one of the central myths of American capitalist society. Once again, ignorance helps keep the system going. People have accepted the lie that if you don't "make it", its your own fault, not the system's.

Related to this is the idea that we *need* the bosses, because they, unlike us, have the talent and know-how to keep things humming. That they're the brains while we're just the muscle. In 1896, in his groundbreaking "Reform or Revolution" speech, Daniel De Leon stated: "Some people think that the wageworker class must carry the capitalist on its back. As well say that you must have potato bugs, or you won't have any potatoes. If you remove the potato bugs, you will have all the more potatoes; remove the capitalist class and you will have the whole of your product; there will not then be any potato bug, i.e., capitalist, to sponge up the bulk of your product."

My main difficulty with the SP leaflet is that their solution is just too abstract and leaves you hanging. To bring it all back home, here's my attempt at a more practical, concrete, two-pronged solution:

1. Join a union and bring your class- and social-consciousness in with you. Fight for economic democracy and workers' power.

2. Next election, don't waste your vote on candidates of the two big-business parties (In reality, there is only *one* Big Business Party: the liberal wing being the Democrats, while the Republicans make up the conservative wing). Instead, vote for candidates that speak the truth about capitalism. Think about joining and becoming active in the campaign for democratic socialism. There's a number of groups out there which are utilizing a variety of strategy and tactics in fighting for a sane society: the Freedom Socialists, Socialist Labor Party, New Unionists, the Campaign for a New Tomorrow, and the Greens, among others. Choose one and jump in. *You* are needed, and you *can* make a difference! ✪

wreckage carnal like medieval war
fills my empty eyes
the tv spits out moremoremore
of its vicious lies
scenes of chaos filled with strife
pour into my brain
words of terror cut like a knife
driving me insane
where oh where is the honored knight
to go and drive the valiant fight;
break the chains of Man
my heart is full of hope
but i can barely cope;
it's all happening again
idly by we will sit and stew
pray for some release
saying "if only <u>then</u> we knew,
we would fight for peace"
the death toll rises high away
twisted bodies burn
mouths still move as if to say
'don't you ever learn?'
where oh where are our heroes now
to appear and show us how
we are going to prevail
my heart is full of fears
my eyes are close to tears;
what happens if we fail?
wreckage carnal like medieval war
fills my empty eyes
the tv spits out moremoremore
of its vicious lies
scenes of chaos filled with strife
pour into my brain
words of terror cut like a knife
driving me insane

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all the flowers you
will be receiving,
they tell me.
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total allotment.
Not another fern.

How can this be? This small bundle
of flowers, this small vase, and
nothing more? And look, these
are only cheap carnations.
And what's this,
one sprig of
eucalyptus?
Why only one?

But the rose buds are nice,
and a deep red.
And the daffodils are silly,
but somehow fit in.
There's only one tulip, but what
a big one, and baby's breath,
after all
is always nice.

What's this purple thing with the
curly leaves? A couple of irises...
aren't these from different seasons?
I can put these lilies of the valley
low in the front, with a few pansies...
at least the stems are nice and long.
And what is this?
Is this an orchid?

The vase is a good one,
marked on the side
in a broad stroke of brush
with the reclining 8
symbol of infinity,
fired in reds and earth tones:
good solid pottery.
I'll need cold water,
and a bit of time.

Michael McNeilley

I am sickened by what my country is built on and its culture of denial; I am sickened by what it has become. But I am healed by a vision of our country with its enormous potential for truly embracing human diversity--in that my patriotism is born.

Margo Adair

Cryptogram

Z XI AZMSCKCE ND BYXW ID MHTKWOD ZA NTZlW HK XKE ZWA MTlWTOC HU ECKZXl; Z XI AZMSCKCE ND BYXW ZW YXA NCMHIC. NTW Z XI YCXlCE ND X RZAZHK HU HTO MHTKWOD BZWY ZWA CKHOIHTA FHWCKWZXl UHO WOTlD CINOXMZKV YTIXK EZRCOAZWD -- ZK WYXW ID FXWOZHWZAI ZA NHOK.
IXOVH XEXZO

solution below

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

Next meeting:

Sat July 17

Call Alan at 786-8950 for more information on time and place.

WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission deadline is Wednesday
July 21
Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH at 7 pm. SPEECH is 218 Fourth Ave. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, July 27
at 7pm at the Olympia Timberland Library

Policy Meeting
First Tuesdays July 6 & Aug. 3 @ 7pm. Call 357-4705 for place.

For advertising information call ad representative

Dave Campbell
at 352-6132

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